MATURE CONTENT
Basilisk
3
The Kouga Ninja Scrolls
Original story by Fūtaro Yamada
Manga by Masaki Segawa

Basilisk

ORIGINAL STORY BY FŪTARO YAMADA

BASED ON THE KODANSHA NOVEL *THE KOUGA NINJA SCROLLS*

MANGA BY MASAKI SEGAWA

TRANSLATED AND ADAPTED BY DAVID URY
LETTERED BY FOLTZ DESIGN

3

Basilisk

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Basilisk 3

THE TEN COMBATANTS OF THE KOUGA CLAN

DANJOU KOUGA
GENNOSUKE KOUGA
JUUBEI JIMUSHI
SHOUGEN KAZAMACHI
GYOUBU KASUMI
JOUSUKE UDONO
SAEMON KISARAGI
HYOUMA MUROGA
KAGEROU
OKOI

THE TEN COMBATANTS OF THE IGA CLAN

OGEN
OBORO
YASHAMARU
ROUSAI AZUKI
JINGOROU AMAYO
KOSHIROU CHIKUMA
NENKI MINO
HOTARUBI
TENZENYAKUSHIJI
AKEGINU

Chapters

KILL NUMBER 14 [5 VS 7 (PART 3)]
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KILL NUMBER 16 [5 VS 6]
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KILL NUMBER 18 [5 VS 5]
KILL NUMBER 19 [5 VS 5 (PART 2)]
KILL NUMBER 20 [5 VS 5 (PART 3)]

Summary

THE STORY SO FAR...

UNDER THE ORDER OF RULER IEYASU TOKUGAWA, THE THIRD TOKUGAWA SHOGUN SHALL BE DECIDED BY A BATTLE OF 10 VS 10 BETWEEN THE KOUGA AND THE IGA NINJA. THE BLOODBATH BETWEEN THESE TWO NINJA CLANS BEGINS WHEN THE TWO CLAN LEADERS, OGEN OF IGA AND DANJOU OF THE KOUGA CLAN TAKE EACH OTHER'S LIVES. SOON AFTER, JUUBEI JIMUSHI, SHOUGEN KAZAMACHI, JOUSUKE UDONO AND OKOI OF THE KOUGA CLAN ALSO MEET THEIR DEMISE. ONLY AFTER THE DEATHS OF THESE KOUGA NINJA DOES THE REST OF THE KOUGA CLAN LEARN THAT THE IGA/KOUGA TRUCE HAS BEEN DISSOLVED. THE KOUGA CLAN BEGINS TO STRIKE BACK IMMEDIATELY BY KILLING IGA CLAN MEMBERS YASHAMARU AND ROUSAI AZUKI. MEANWHILE, BOTH GENNOSUKE KOUGA AND OBORO OF IGA HAVE LEARNED ABOUT THE BATTLE BETWEEN THEIR CLANS. GENNOSUKE LEAVES IGA TSUBAGAKURE TERRITORY IMMEDIATELY. OBORO OF IGA, FILLED WITH WORRY AND SORROW, SPLASHES A BLINDING POTION UPON HER OWN EYES. THE BATTLE BETWEEN THE IGA AND THE KOUGA CONTINUES...

Basilisk

THE KOUGA NINJA SCROLLS

ORIGINAL STORY BY
FŪTARO YAMADA

MANGA BY
MASAKI SEGAWA

BASED ON THE KODANSHA NOVEL
THE KOUGA NINJA SCROLLS

KILL NUMBER 14
[5 VS 7 (PART 3)]

THE SEVEN DAYS OF DARKNESS POTION...
...USING IT TO BLIND YOURSELF...? WHAT THE HELL WERE YOU THINKING?

I TOO AM A CHILD OF IGA.
.....

I UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE SAYING, TENZEN.
BUT...
I CANNOT FIGHT AGAINST GENNOSUKE-SAMA.
OBORO
[IGA]

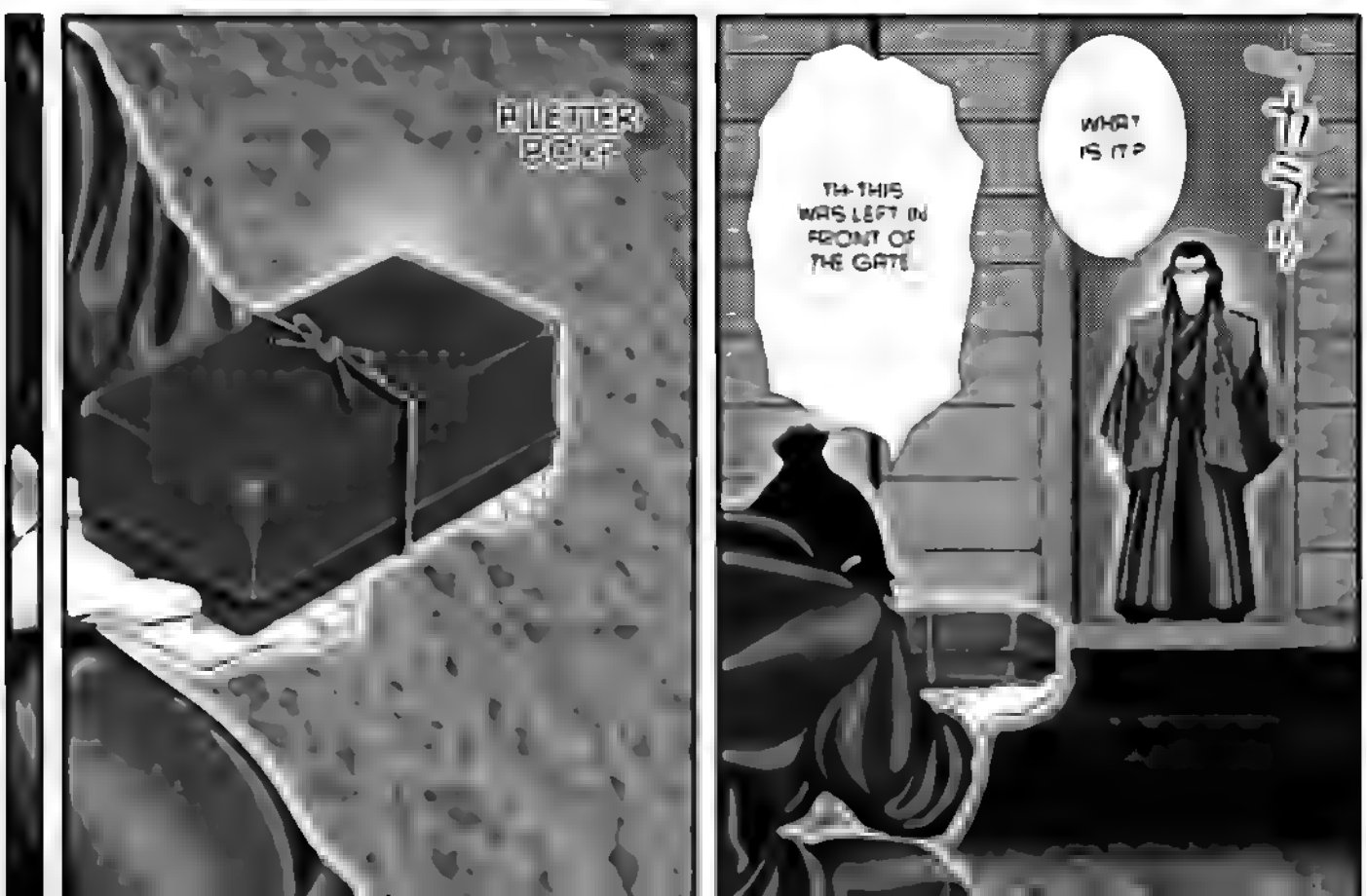
NOT ONLY CAN I NOT FIGHT AGAINST HIM...
...
...

I MAY EVEN...
...END UP TRYING TO...
...GET IN YOUR WAY.
THAT... FRIGHTENS ME...

FOOL...
WHAT?
TENZEN YAKUSHIJI
[IGA]
JINGOROU AMAYO
[IGA]

TENZEN-SAMA!

?
TENZEN-SAMA!


A LETTER?
WHAT IS IT?
TH-THIS WAS LEFT IN FRONT OF THE GATE

THE TEN COMBATANTS OF THE IGA CLAN
OBORO
JINGOROU AMAYO
KOSHIROU CHIKUMA
NENKI MINO
HOTARUBI
TENZENYAKUSHIJI
AKEGINU
THE TEN COMBATANTS OF THE KOUGA CLAN
GENNOSUKE KOUGA
GYOUBU KASUMI
SAEMON KISARAGI
HYOUMA MUROGA
KAGEROU
APRIL KEICHO YEAR 19
IEYASU TOKUGAWA

WHY WOULD HE RETURN THE SCROLL TO US?
HAS GENNOSUKE GONE INSANE?

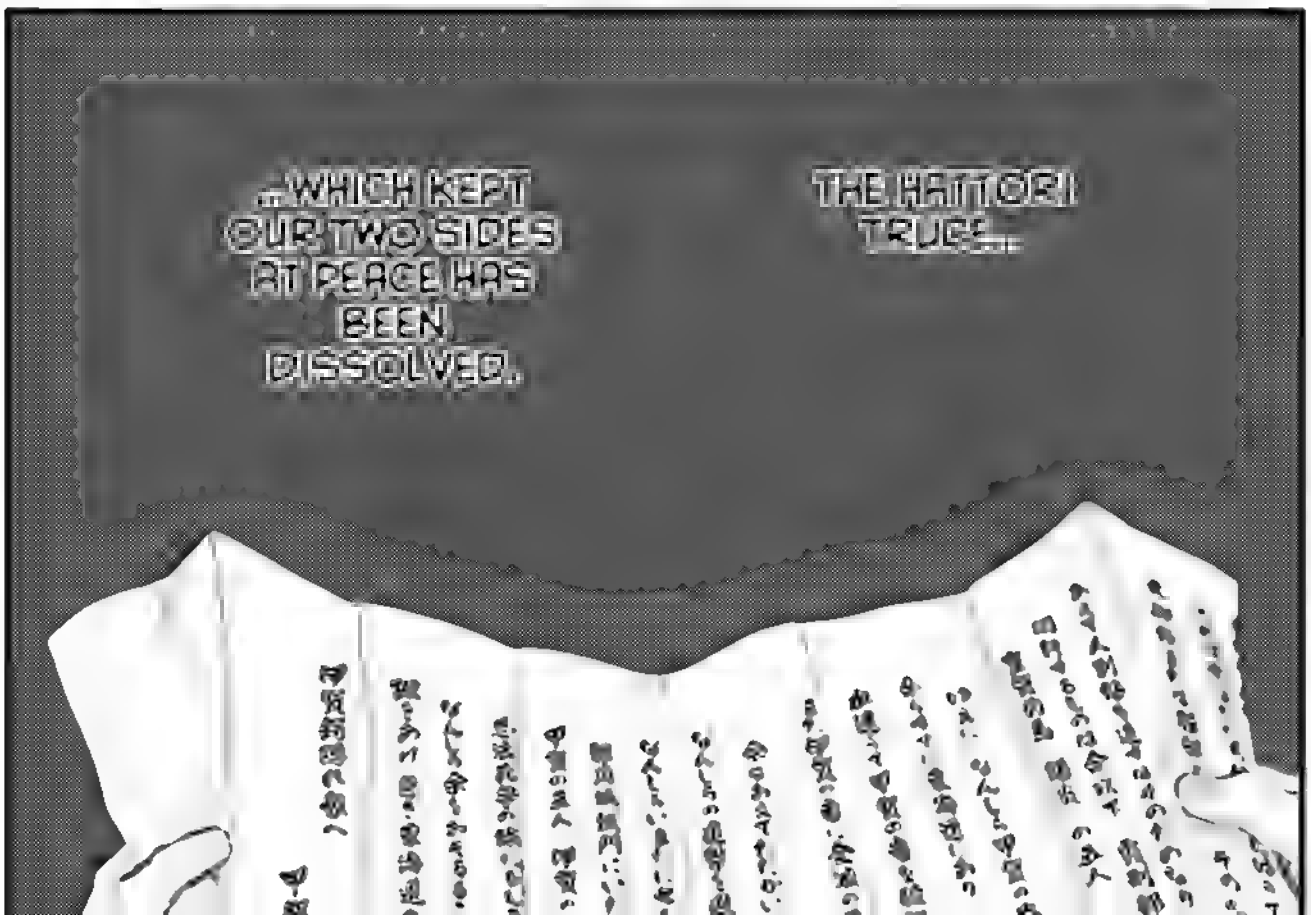
HMMPH.

NO...
LOOK AT KOSHIROU'S NAME.

HE KNEW THAT EVEN THOSE WOUNDS WOULDN'T BE ENOUGH TO KILL KOSHIROU.
SOME-HOW...
HE'S NOT INSANE...HE KNOWS EXACTLY WHAT HE'S DOING.
JINGOROU A
KOSHIROU CHIK
NENKI
HOTA
AKEC
IT'S NOT CROSSED OUT.
BUT WHY? WHY WOULD HE HAND THE SCROLL BACK OVER TO US?
FWIP
WHAT DOES THE LETTER SAY, TENZEN-DONO?

...FROM GENNOSUKE
IT'S A CHALLENGE.

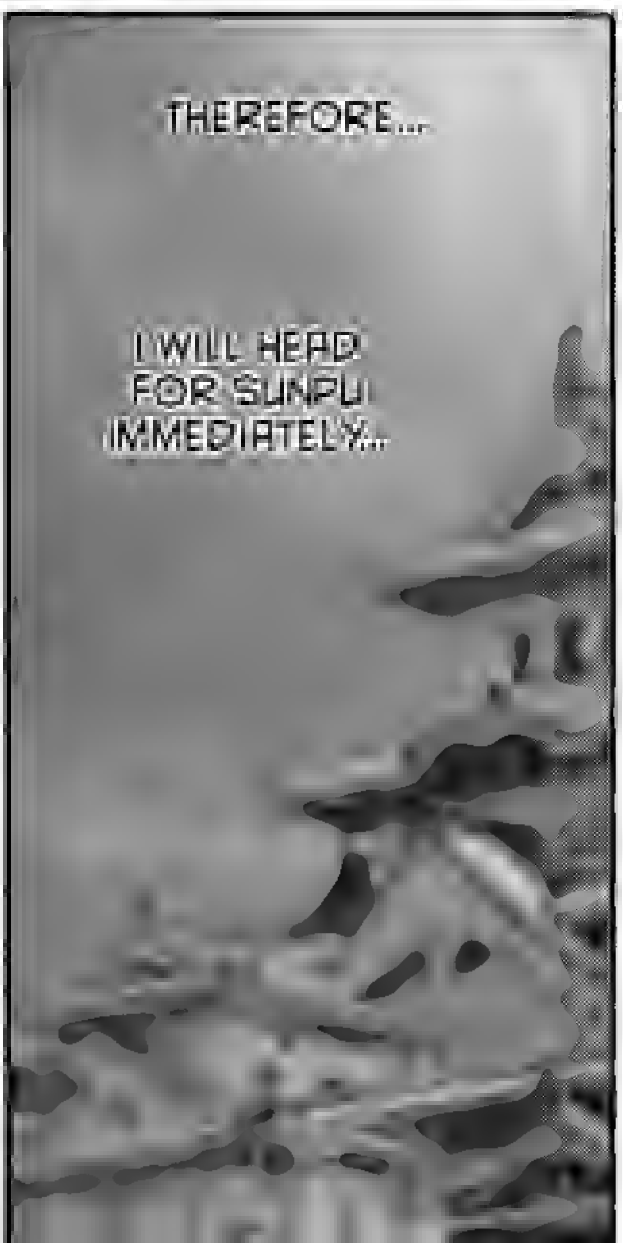
WHAT?
!


...WHICH KEPT OUR TWO SIDES AT PEACE HAS BEEN DISSOLVED.
THE HATTORI TRUCE...

...NOR DO I UNDERSTAND WHAT FIGHTING WOULD ACCOMPLISH.
HOWEVER, I DO NOT WANT TO FIGHT.

...WHERE I WILL PUT THE QUESTION TO IEYASU TOKUGAWA...

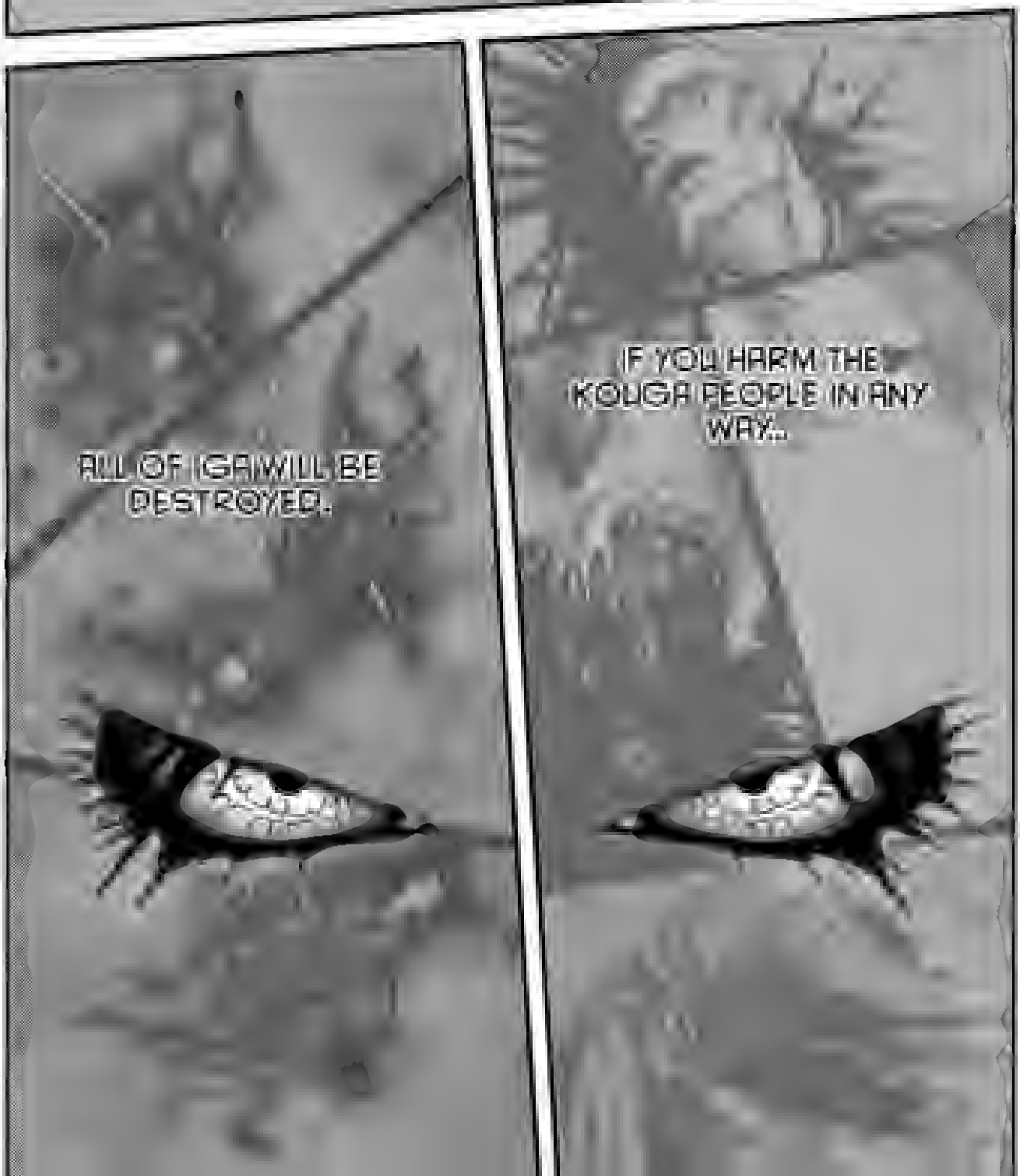
...AND HANZO HATTORI.


THEREFORE...
I WILL HEAD FOR SUNPU IMMEDIATELY...

THAT IS THE REASON...
...THAT I AM RETURNING THE SCROLL.

GYOUBU KASUMI...
SAEMON KISARAGI...
I WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY THE FOLLOWING...
KYOUMA MUROGA...
...AND KAGEROU.

EVEN IF YOU DECIDE TO COME TO KOUGA, WE WILL ALREADY BE ON THE TOKAIDO ROAD.


ALL OF IGA WILL BE DESTROYED.
IF YOU HARM THE KOUGA PEOPLE IN ANY WAY...

IF YOU ATTACK, I WILL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO DEFEND MY PEOPLE.

I DO NOT WANT TO FIGHT, BUT...

THERE ARE SEVEN MEMBERS OF YOUR CLAN LEFT. I SUGGEST THAT...

...THE SEVEN MEMBERS OF THE IGA CLAN AND THE REMAINING FIVE MEMBERS OF THE KOU-GA CLAN HEAD TO SUNPU CASTLE AS A SINGLE PARTY.

PLEASE HURRY AND JOIN US ON THE TOKAIDO ROAD.
YOU HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR FROM U.S.
TENZEN!
SQUISH
GENNOSUKE KOUGA

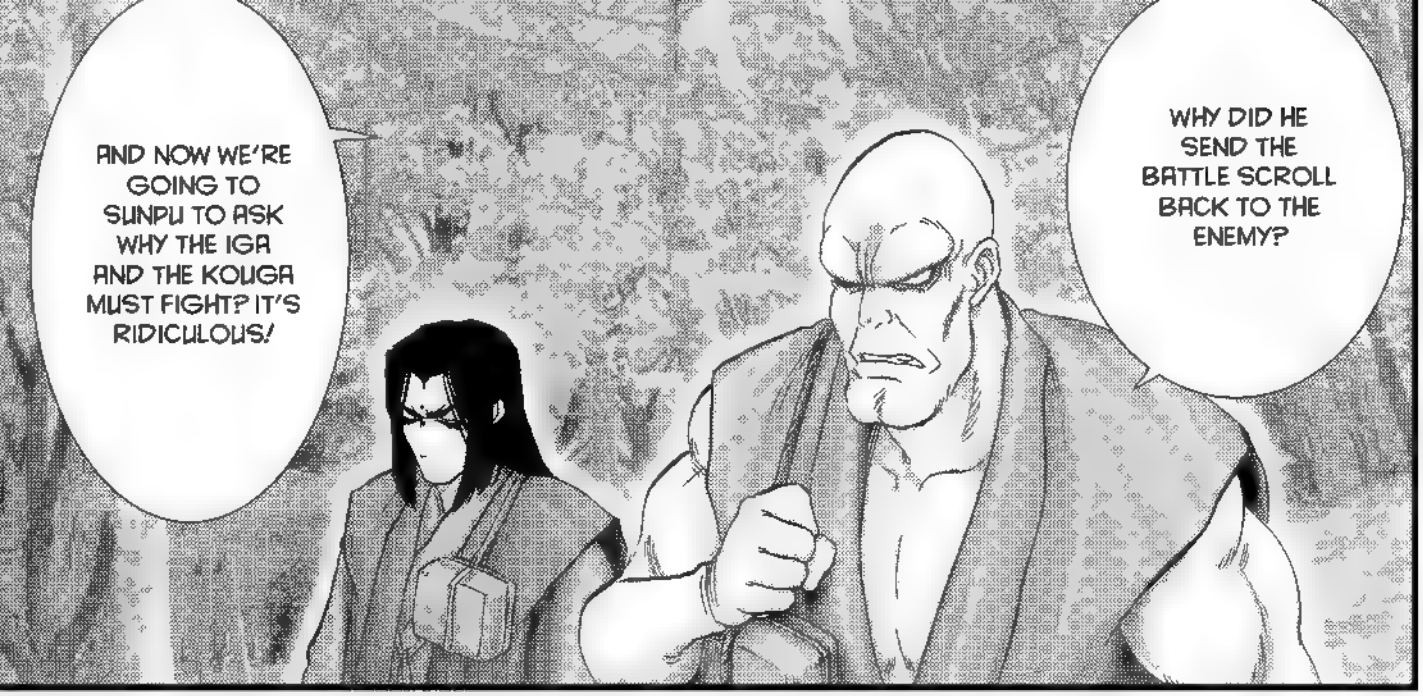
WE MUST GO AFTER THEM.
RIGHT NOW!

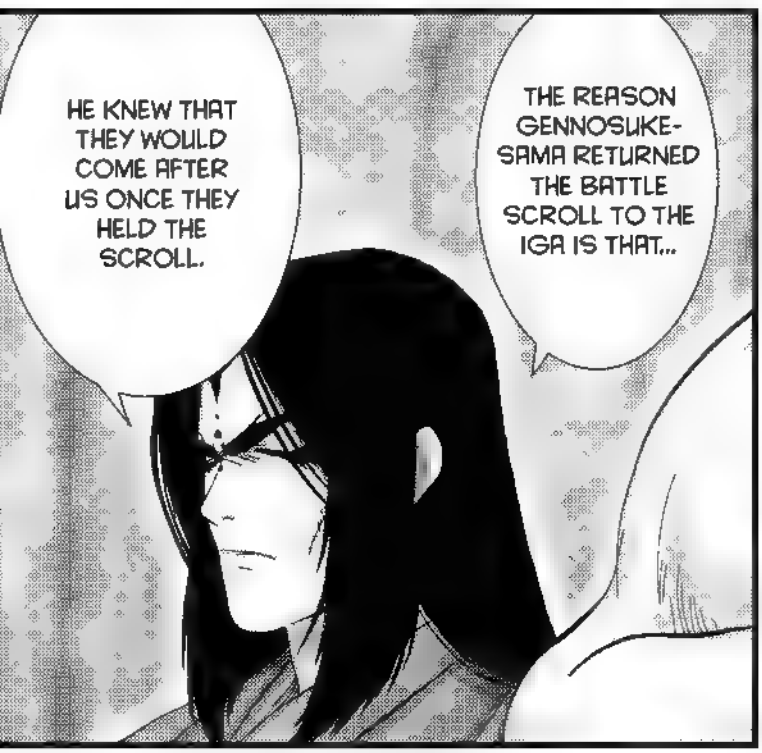
THE NEXT DAY
-TOKAIDO ROAD ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF MINAKUCHI

THOSE IGA BASTARDS WOULD NEVER CHASE US THROUGH THE KOUGA VALLEY.
WHY SO CAUTIOUS, HYOUMA?
THERE IS NO ONE FOLLOWING US.
HYOUMA MUROGA
YEAH.
THEY'LL PROBABLY COME ALONG THE IGA ROAD.
THE ROAD TO SUNPU IS LONG. I WONDER WHERE WE WILL COME ACROSS THEM.
.....
TO WIN THIS BATTLE, WE HAVE TO FIND THEM FIRST!
HMMPH.

I WAS THINKING OF GOING OFF ON MY OWN TO FIND THE IGA PARTY...
...AND TAKING CARE OF THEM MYSELF. WHAT DO YOU THINK?

BUT I'M WORRIED ABOUT GENNOSUKE-SAMA
SHE REALLY READY TO FIGHT THIS BATTLE?


AND NOW WE'RE GOING TO SUNPU TO ASK WHY THE IGA AND THE KOUGA MUST FIGHT? IT'S RIDICULOUS!
WHY DID HE SEND THE BATTLE SCROLL BACK TO THE ENEMY?

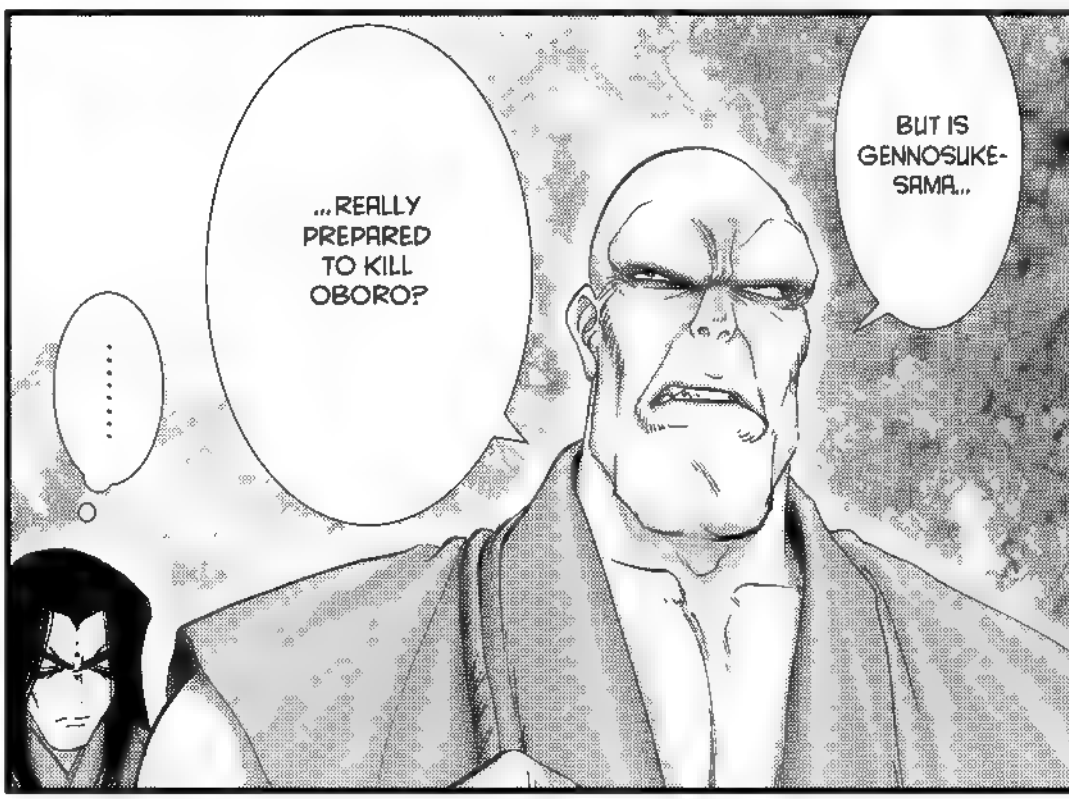

HE KNEW THAT THEY WOULD COME AFTER US ONCE THEY HELD THE SCROLL.
THE REASON GENNOSUKE-SAMA RETURNED THE BATTLE SCROLL TO THE IGA IS THAT...

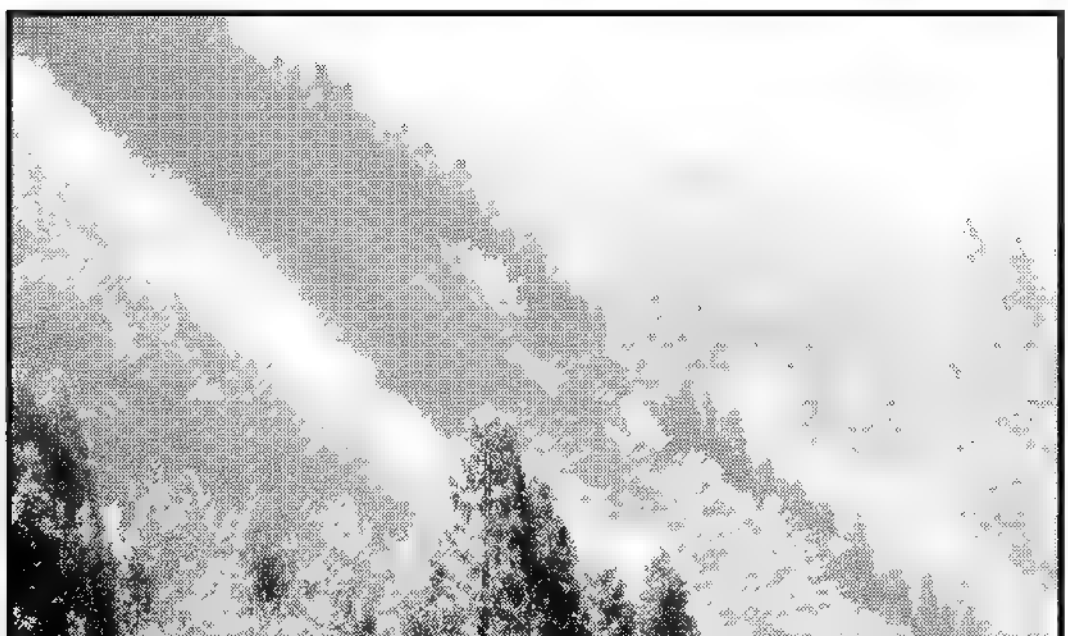
ONCE THE IGA SEE THAT LETTER OF CHALLENGE, THEY WILL DEFINITELY COME AFTER US.
YOU MIGHT BE RIGHT ABOUT THAT.

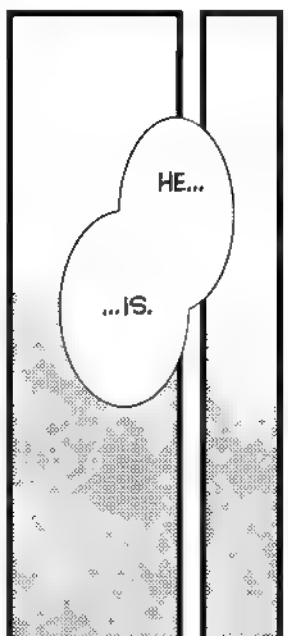
WE CAN ASK THAT QUESTION AFTER WE'VE KILLED ALL TEN OF THOSE IGA BASTARDS!
WHY DO WE NEED A REASON TO FIGHT OUR SWORN ENEMY OF OVER 400 YEARS?

AND WHEN THEY DO, WE'LL KILL EVERY LAST ONE OF THOSE FILTHY IGA BASTARDS...
...AND THEN TAKE BACK THE BATTLE SCROLL. NOT A BAD PLAN, EH, GYOUBU?

I BELIEVE...


BUT IS GENNOSUKE-SAMA...
...REALLY PREPARED TO KILL OBORO?
.....

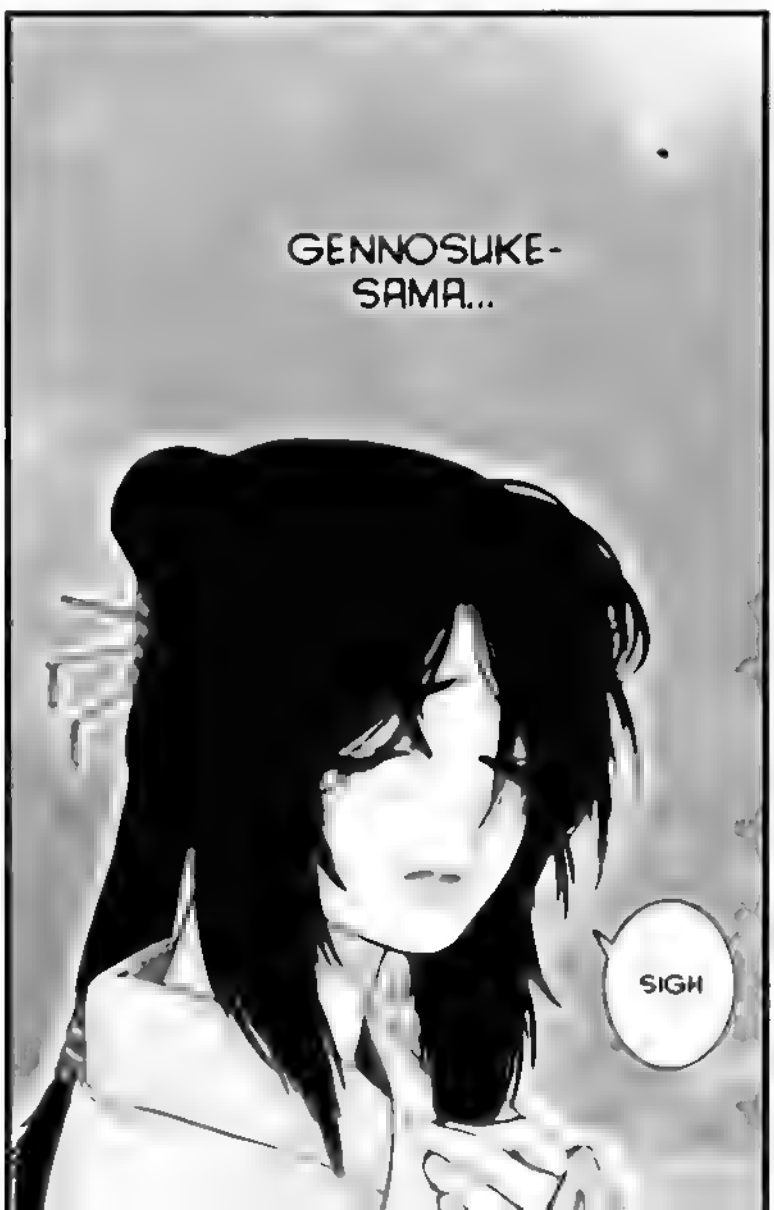



HE...
...IS.

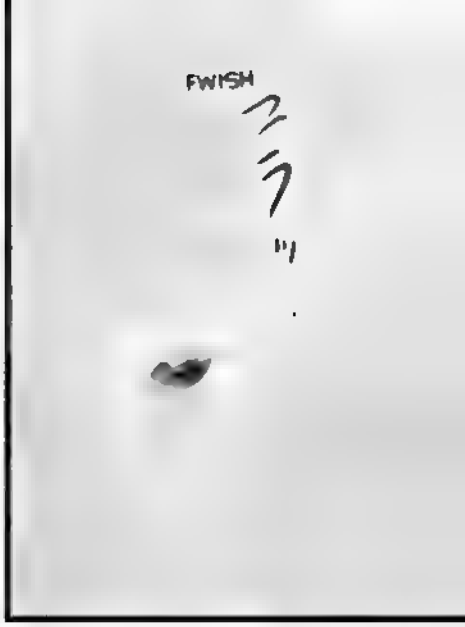
SWIP

KAGEROU

BUZZ

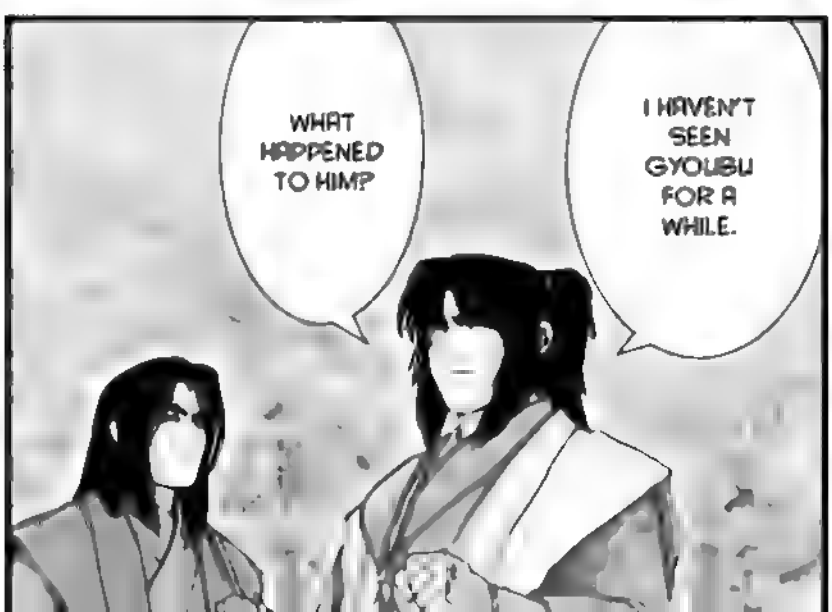

GENNOSUKE-
SAMA...
SIGH

THUD


FWISH

.....

TRICKLE
TRICKLE


WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?
I HAVEN'T SEEN GYOUBU FOR A WHILE.

MAYBE HE MELTED INTO THE SHADOWS AGAIN..
WHAT?
HE ISN'T HERE?
HUH?
YOU WENT OFF ON YOUR OWN, DIDN'T YOU, GYOUBU?

...DON'T TRY ANYTHING.
FIND THE KOUGA PARTY AND LET US KNOW WHERE THEY ARE.
BUT REMEMBER...
THAT BASTARD TENZEN...
HE MOCKS ME.

TOKAIDO ROAD
SEKINOSHUKU
TSSS
BE PATIENT. WE MUST WAIT FOR THE IGA TO COME AFTER US.
IT SEEMS A LITTLE TOO QUIET.
WHERE IS KAGEROU?
HMM... SHE'S PROBABLY IN THE BATH.
.....

WE MIGHT HAVE BETTER LUCK TAKING THE ROAD THROUGH SAYAJI.
WE'LL SEE HOW THE WEATHER IS.
ARE WE GONNA HAVE TO TAKE THE BOAT FROM KUWANA TOMORROW, HYOUMA?
WHAT IS IT, SAEMON?
?
.....
YES... JUST LIKE HER MOTHER...
...WHEN KAGEROU...
IT'S KAGEROU...
IT SEEMS SHE'S FALLEN DEEPLY IN LOVE WITH GENNOSUKE-SAMA.
.....
ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT GENNOSUKE-SAMA?

...IS IN THE HEAT OF PASSION..

...HER CRIES OF ECSTASY...
...TURN DEADLY.

HER BREATH
...AND KILLS THE MAN SHE'S WITH.
POISONS.

SHE'S WELL AWARE OF THAT...
SHE KNOWS SHE CANNOT LAY A FINGER ON GENNOSUKE-SAMA.
.....
SHE CARRIES A HEAVY BURDEN.
YES, SHE CAN NEVER LIE WITH THE MAN SHE LOVES...
BUT..
THEN AGAIN, YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT A WOMAN IS CAPABLE OF.
YOU NEVER KNOW..

GENNOSUKE-SAMA...

END OF KILL NUMBER 14

...THE ROOM WHERE GENNOSUKE IS STAYING.
THAT'S...

KILL NUMBER 15

[5 VS 7 (PART 4)]

SWD
WHO IS IT?
KAGEROU?
WHAT HAPPENED? IS SOMETHING WRONG?

SPEAKING OF KAGEROU...
CLINK
JUST BEFORE DANJOU-SAMA LEFT FOR SUNPU...
...HE SAID SOME-THING LIKE...
"IT'S ABOUT TIME WE FOUND A MAN FOR KAGEROU."
.....
HOW MANY MEN WILL HAVE TO DIE...
...BEFORE SHE FINALLY GETS PREGNANT?

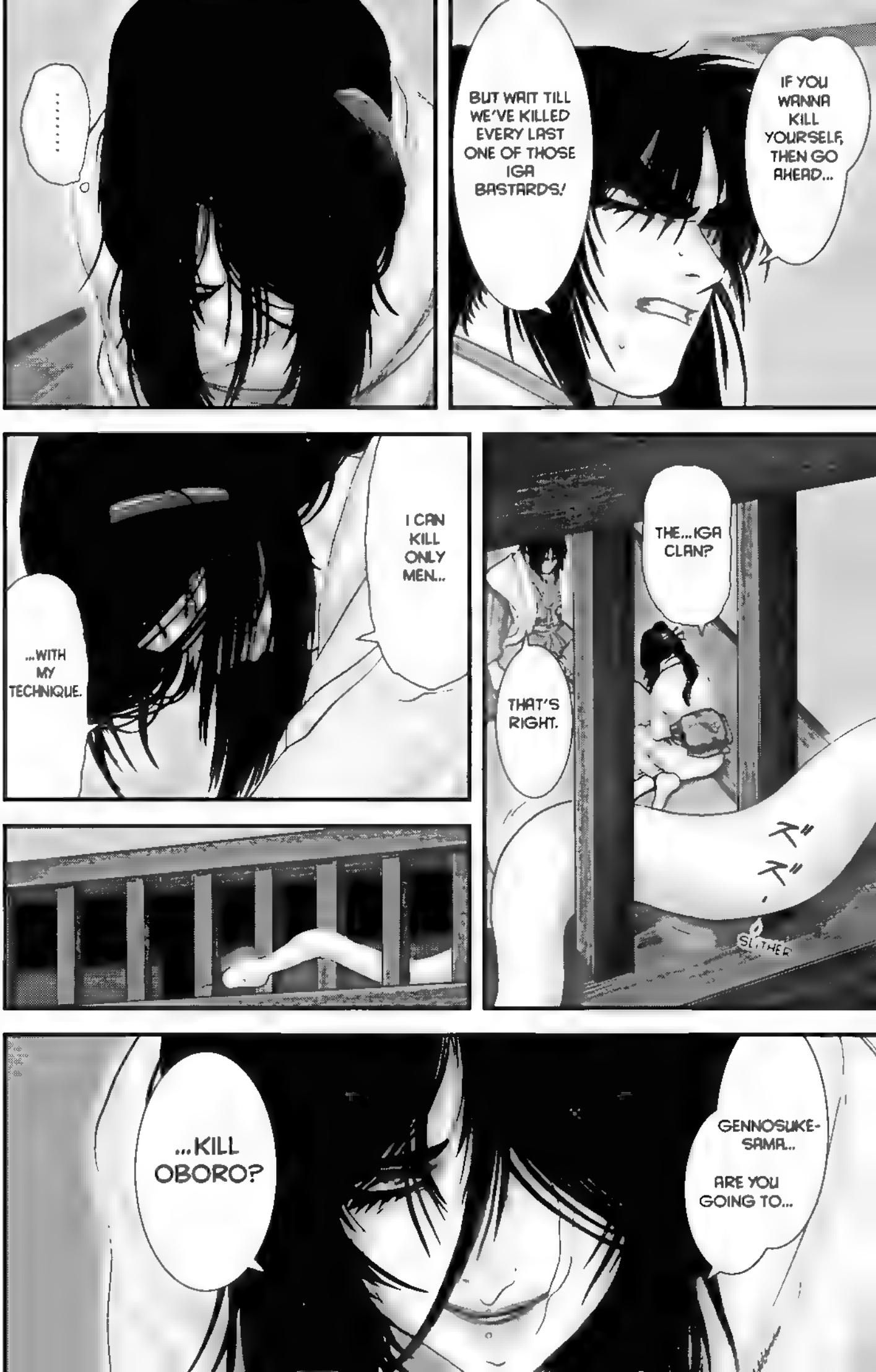
BUT LIKE ALL BEAUTIFUL WOMEN...
KINGSBROW IS A VERY SEXY WOMAN.
WELL, MEN LINE UP ONE AFTER THE OTHER TO DIE IN HER ARMS.
HER HER
SHE IS...
...DEADLY.

KNOCK

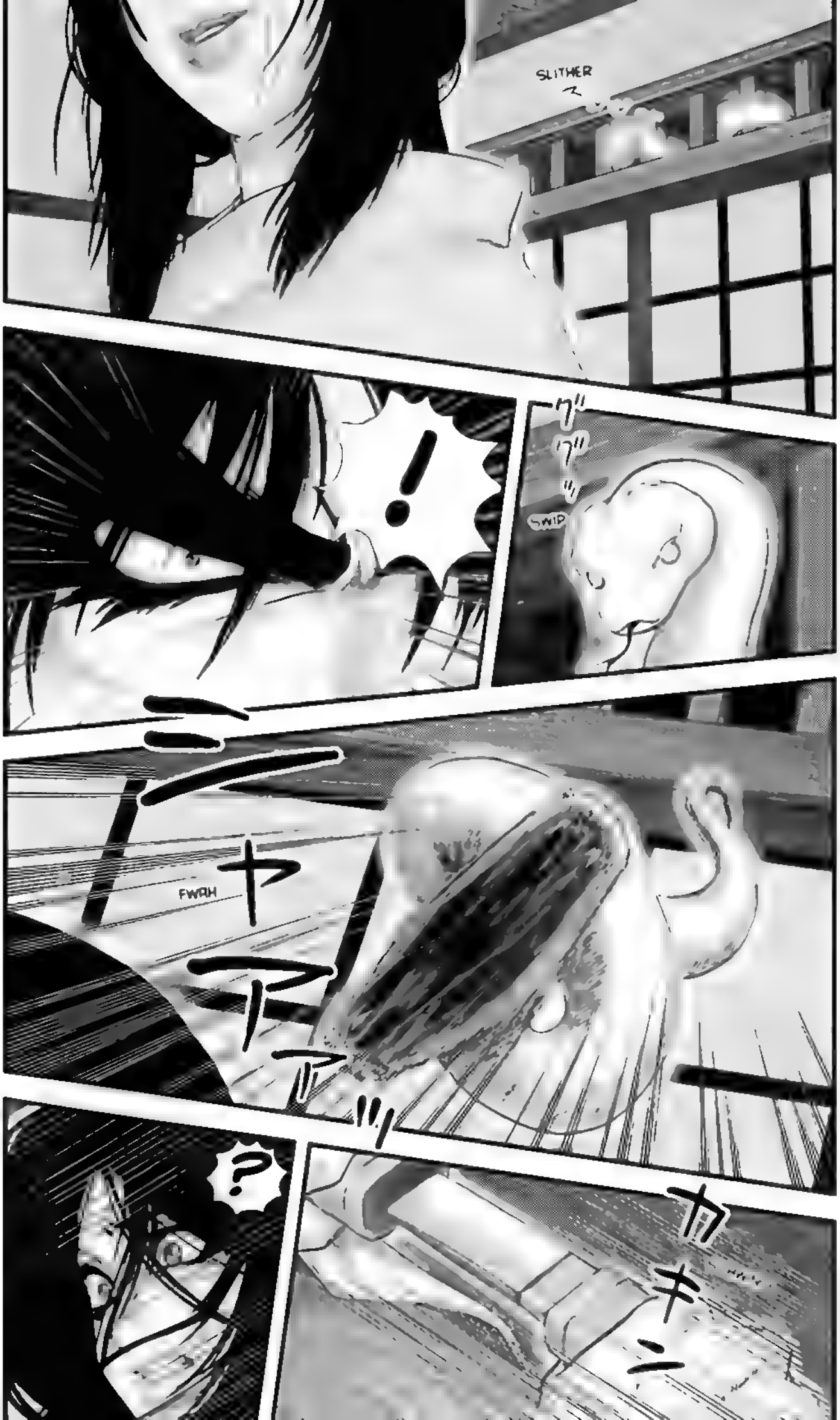
I LOVE YOU...
GENNOSUKE-SAMA.
!
.....
YANK
YANK
ズズッ
SQUINCH
UNG...
URGGH...

LOOK AT ME...
KAGEROU.
AH.
YANK

THUD
THUD
FUU
HAHH
AHH
KAGEROU!
ARE YOU TRYING TO KILL ME?
HAHH
HAHH
HAHH
HAHH
HAHH
I WANT TO DIE WITH YOU.
I WANT TO DIE, GENNOSUKE-SAMA.


.....
BUT WAIT TILL WE'VE KILLED EVERY LAST ONE OF THOSE IGA BASTARDS!
IF YOU WANNA KILL YOURSELF, THEN GO AHEAD...
I CAN KILL ONLY MEN...
...WITH MY TECHNIQUE.
THE...IGA CLAN?
THAT'S RIGHT.
SLITHER
...KILL OBORO?
GENNOSUKE-SAMA...
ARE YOU GOING TO...

I'LL KILL HER.
YES.
.....
I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE IGA MEN.
THEN...
...WILL DIE IN MY ARMS.
EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THEM...


SLITHER
!
"
"
"
SWIP
FWAH
?

AH.
YANK
SLICE
THUD
OH NO...
KAGEROU'S...
...POISON IS—
WOBBLE
?

GENNOSUKE-SAMA!
WHAT WAS THAT NOISE?
GENNOSUKE-SAMA!

I...
GENNOSUKE-SAMA...
I...
I'M BLIND.
WHAT?
WHA-

HEH, HEH.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "BLIND"?
BLIND?
GENNOSUKE-SAMA!
KAGEROU...
AND KYOUMA MUROGA...
SAEMON KISARAGI...
...ARE ALL WITH GENNO-SUKE...
IT WAS EVEN EASIER THAN WE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE, HOTARUBI.
YOUR SNAKE DELIVERED THE SEVEN DAYS OF DARKNESS POTION.
I DON'T SEE GYOUBU KASUMI.
HRRMPH.

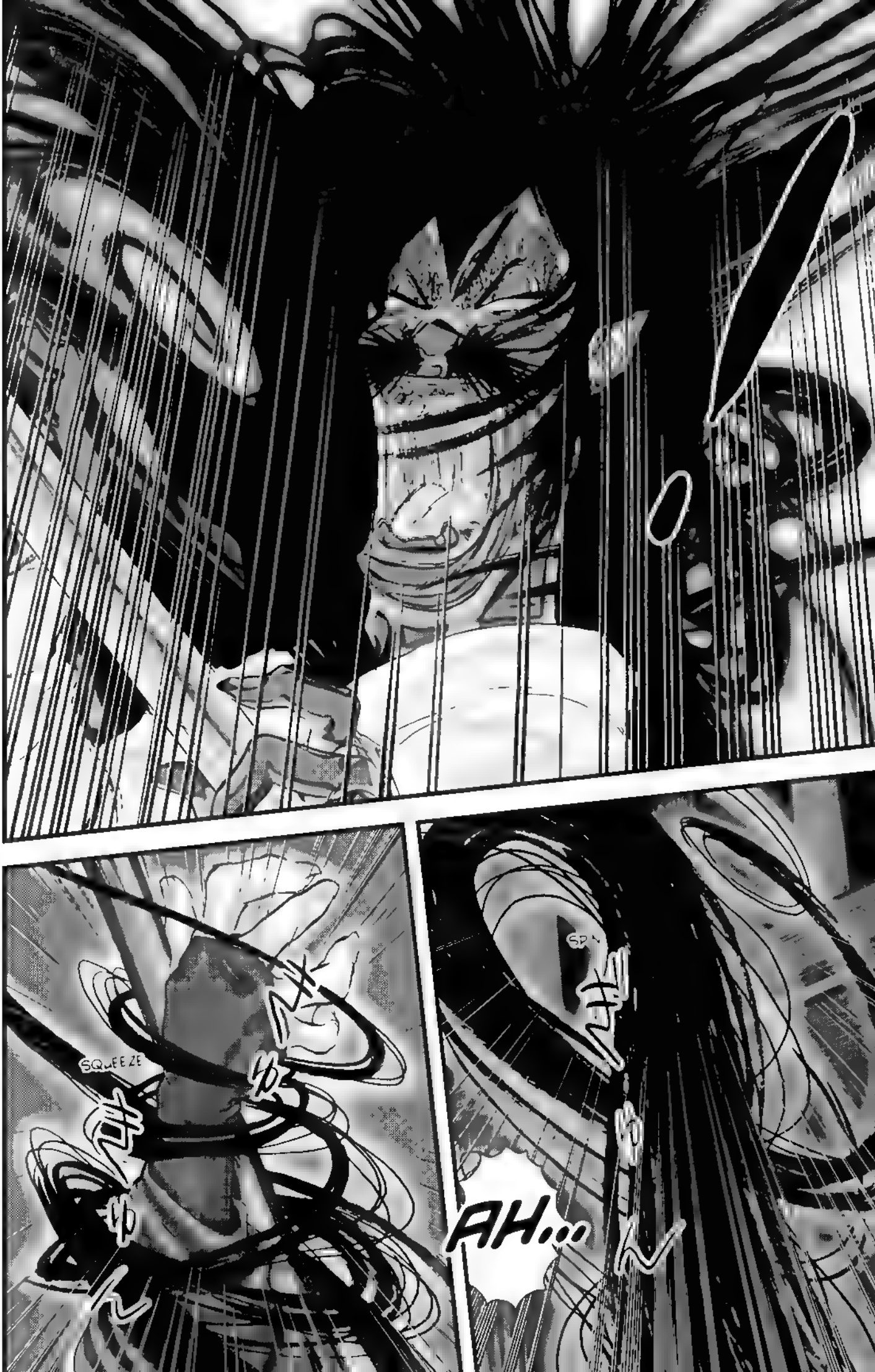
HOTARUBI!
GO BACK AND WARN THEM! TELL THEM TO BE ON THE LOOKOUT.
THAT BASTARD GYOUBU! HE MUST BE PLANNING ON USING HIS
SHADOW TECHNIQUE TO ATTACK OBORO-SAMA AND THE REST OF THE CLAN.
WHAT ABOUT THEM?
LEAVE THEM TO ME!
THESE BASTARDS ARE MINE HEH, HEH, I'LL MAKE TEN-ZEN EAT HIS WORDS!
I WILL
HEY
AS YOU'RE HEADING OUT...
SUMMON A STORM OF BUTTERFLIES, SO WE CAN LURE THEM OUT OF THEIR LITTLE FORT

!
HUH?
I'M GOING AFTER HER!

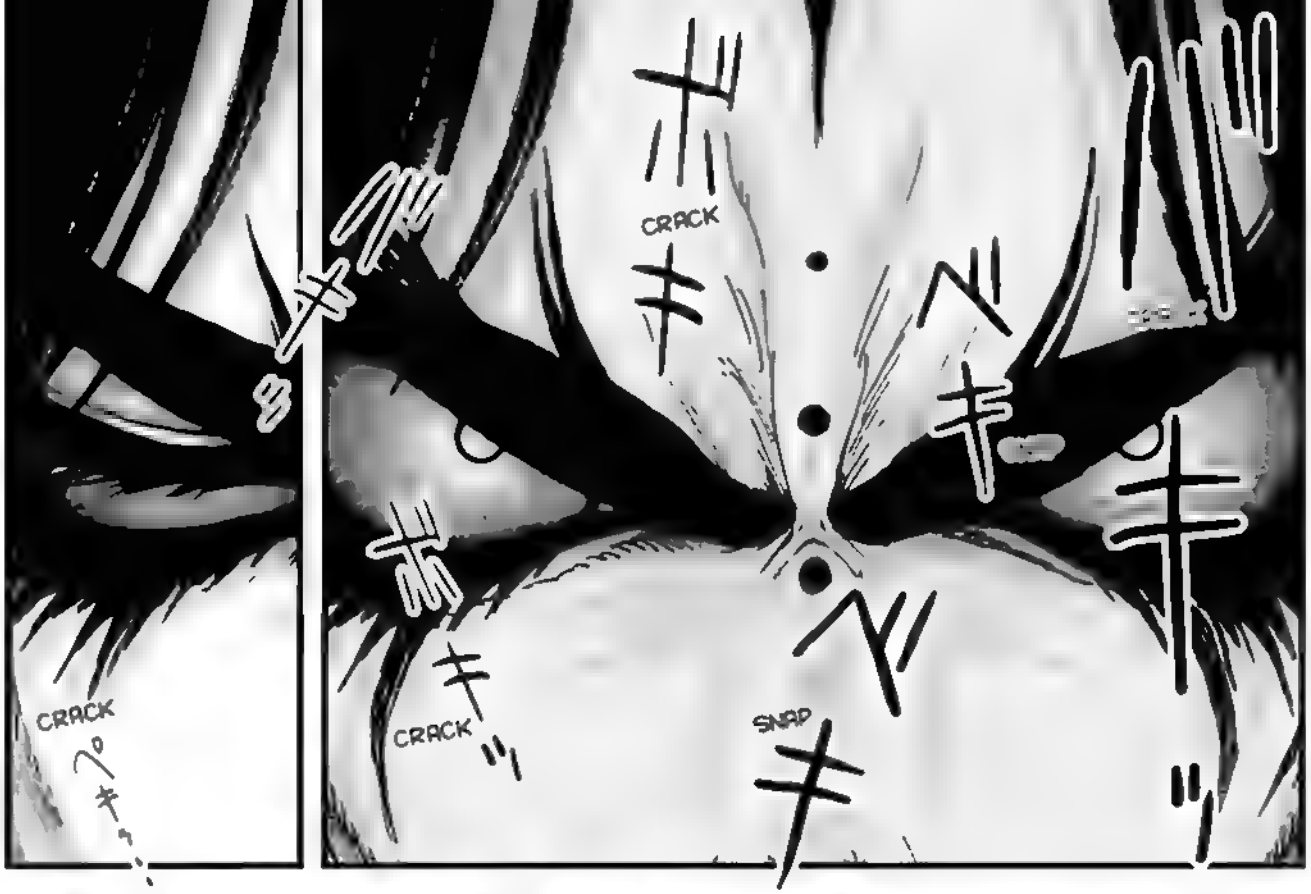
IT MUST'VE BEEN THE IGA.

CAN YOU SEE ME, GENNOSUKE?
I KNOW HYOUMA CAN'T SEE ME!
BWAH, HA, HA, HA, HA!
I WILL SLAY YOU ALL!

HEH.
HEH.
HEH.
WHICH NECK SHOULD I SNAP FIRST?
SCHWING
LOOK... HYOUMA.
WHAT?
HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MIND, GENNOSUKE? TELLING A BLIND MAN TO "LOOK"?
HA, HA, HA.
YOU CRAZY FOOL!


SQUEEZE
AH...

SCHWIPA
GWAH!
SQUEEZE
AAAHH!
AAHHHH!
SQUEEZE
SQUEEZE
CRACK
SNAP
CRACK
CRACK


CRACK
CRACK
CRACK
SNAP

HE WON'T...
...BE CAUSING ANY MORE TROUBLE.
GOOD.

IT IS AN HONOR TO HEAR SUCH WORDS FROM YOU.
WELL DONE.
YOU'RE AS POWERFUL AS THE DAY YOU TAUGHT ME MY FIRST LESSON.

ONLY AFTER THE SUN HAS SET, AND DARKNESS HAS FALLEN...
...CAN MY EYES OPEN
YOU WERE ONCE MY PUPIL, BUT YOU HAVE LONG SINCE RISEN ABOVE YOUR MASTER.
THE ONLY GOOD I CAN DO YOU NOW IS TO WATCH OVER YOU AFTER THE NIGHT HAS FALLEN.

I ONLY WISH...
I COULD SERVE YOU BETTER.

AH!
END OF KILL NUMBER 15
UNGGH!

風待将監

賀利部

解かれずんば

し聞いて殺すべし

勝たば一族申の貝組十人衆

雨夜陣五郎

申賀輝正　鵜殿文助　恵川家

筑摩源吾　如月左衛門

申賀弦之介　室賀豹馬

朱絹　北出十兵衛

風待将監　陽炎

服部半蔵との約定両門手間の禁制は解かれず

陽炎十人衆伊賀十人衆かしこに参し聞いて

のこれるものこの秘巻をたずさえ五月晦日駿

生ずべきことその数えきれざるを悟らとなし勝たば

手録あらん

KILL NUMBER 16
[5 VS 6]

右甲賀十人衆伊賀十人衆おかしに

伊賀組

お知行録ちらん雨夜陣五郎

筑摩小四郎

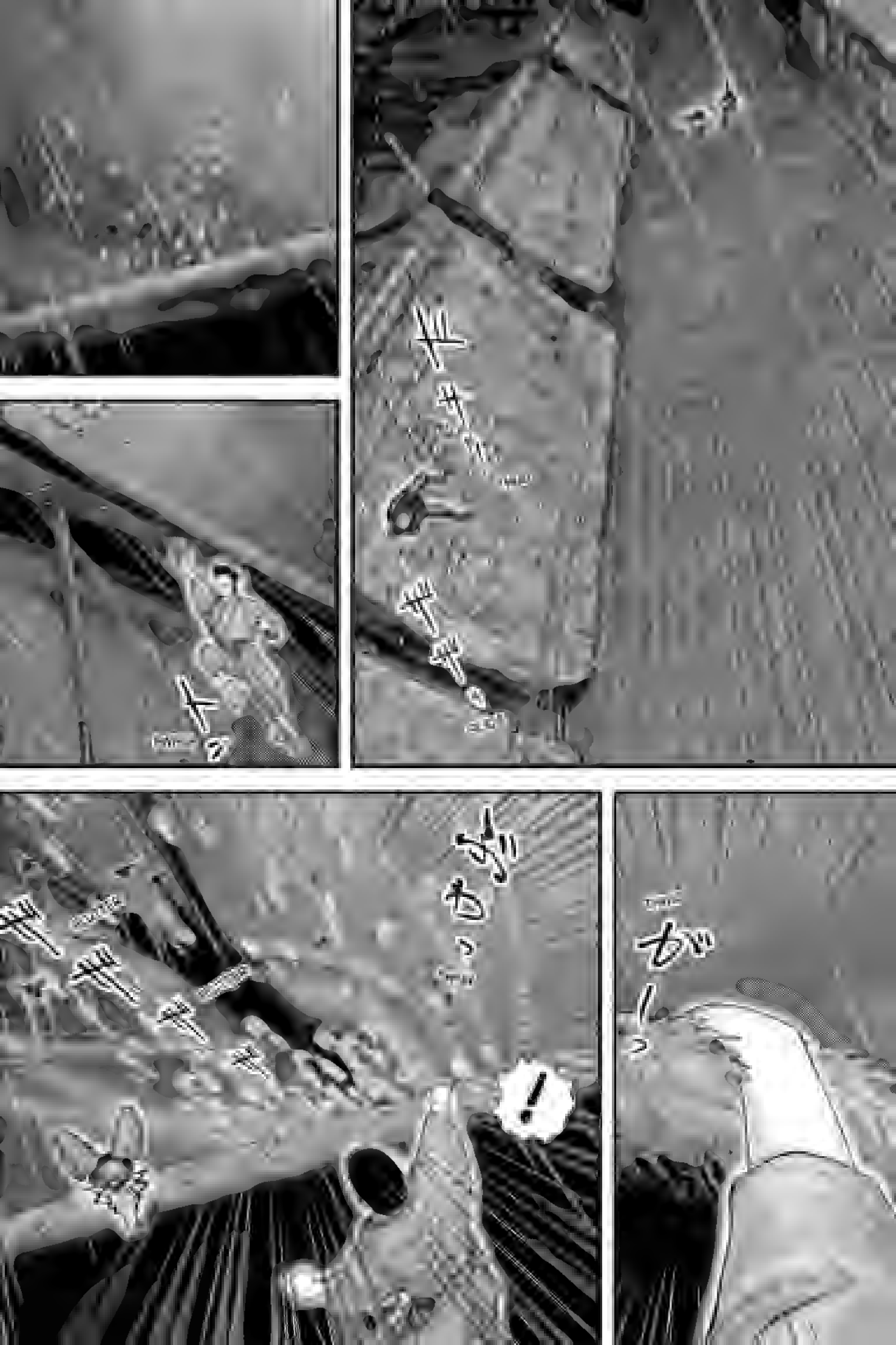
夜陣五郎

筑摩小四郎

薬師寺天膳

朱絹

UNGGH!



BLOOD?
I WON'T LET HER GET AWAY!
SHE'S HURT!
SHIMON DONO!

ナナナナナナ

AH...

WELL, WELL

HEH!~ BOND AND KOTARO HERE...
...PROBABLY FOUND THE KOGA'S CLAN BY NOW.
I JUST HOPE HE'S NOT DIGGING HIS OWN GRAVE.
THAT BASTARD HENKI TOOK THE SEVEN DAYS OF DARKNESS POTION WITH HIM.

IN ANY CASE,
THERE'S NO WAY THAT OBORO-SAMA AND KOSHIROU CAN GO OUT IN THIS RAIN-STORM.
WE'LL HAVE TO MEET BACK UP WITH THEM TOMORROW.

.....

GENNOSUKE-SAMA...

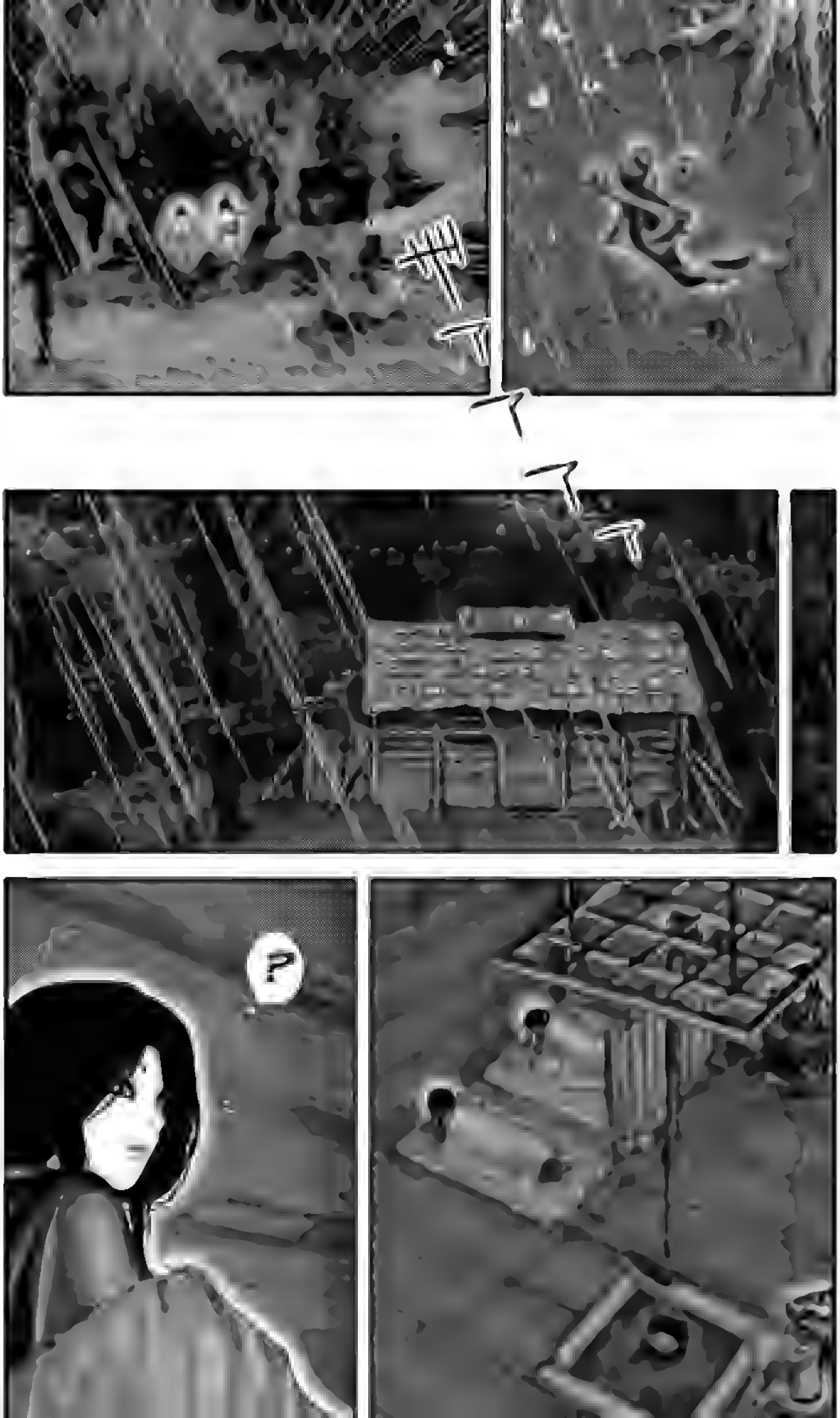
...HAS INCLUDED ME AS ONE OF THE SEVEN REMAINING MEMBERS...

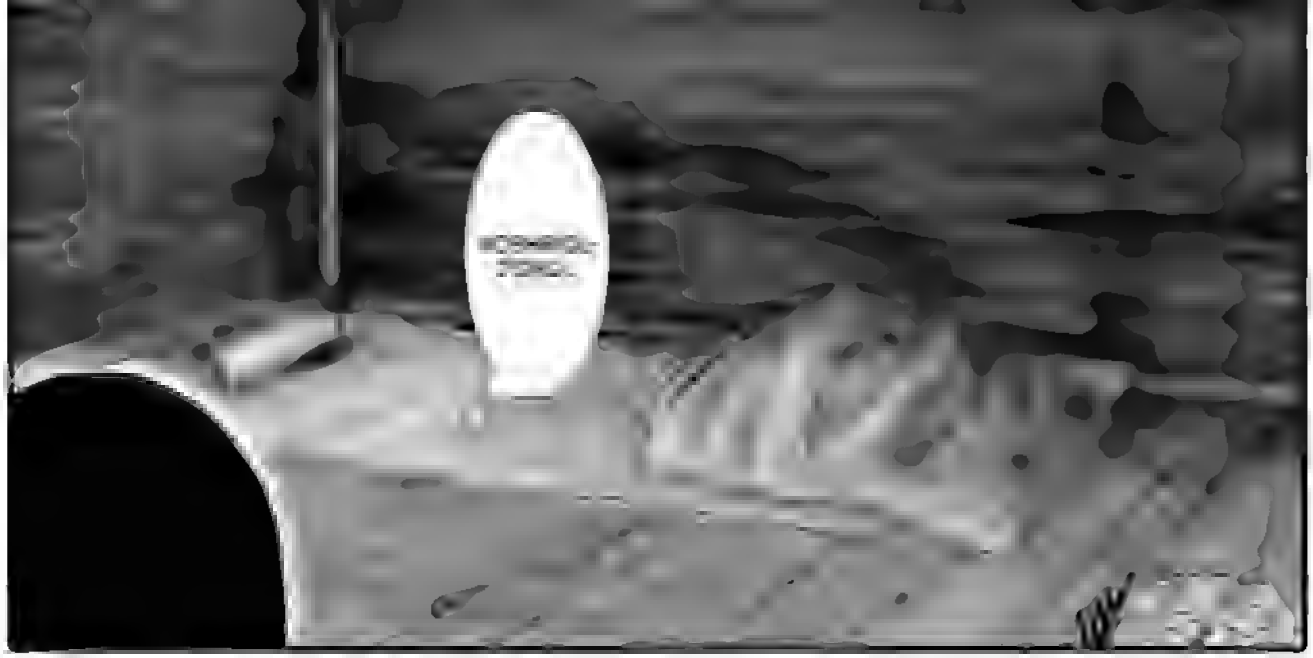
...OF THE IGA CLAN.

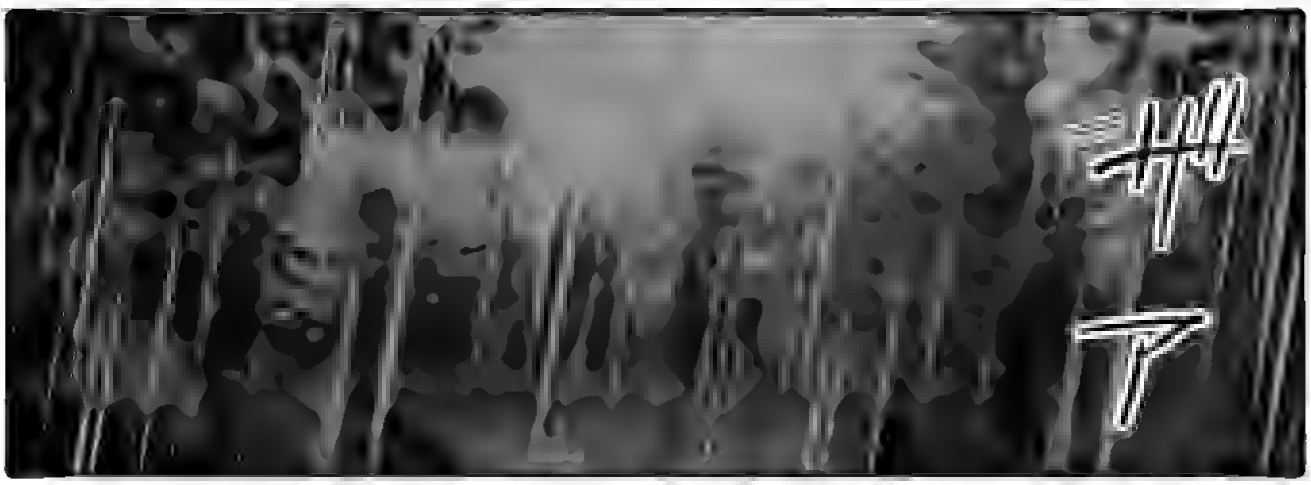
BUT IT WASN'T. IF ONLY THERE WERE A WAY...
...TO LET HIM KNOW THAT IT WASN'T ME.
HE MUST THINK THAT IT WAS I...
AS A SYMBOL OF MY REGRET...
...WHO SET THAT TRAP FOR HIM.

IF WE ARE NOT DESTINED TO BE TOGETHER IN THIS WORLD...
...THEN I WILL WAIT FOR GENNOSUKE-SAMA IN THE NEXT.
I WOULD GLADLY DIE BY HIS SWORD.
.....
TSSS
ヤアアアア

I'M WORRIED ABOUT GINNOSUKE-SAMA.
LET'S GO BACK, SHIMON-DONO.
SHE GOT AWAY.







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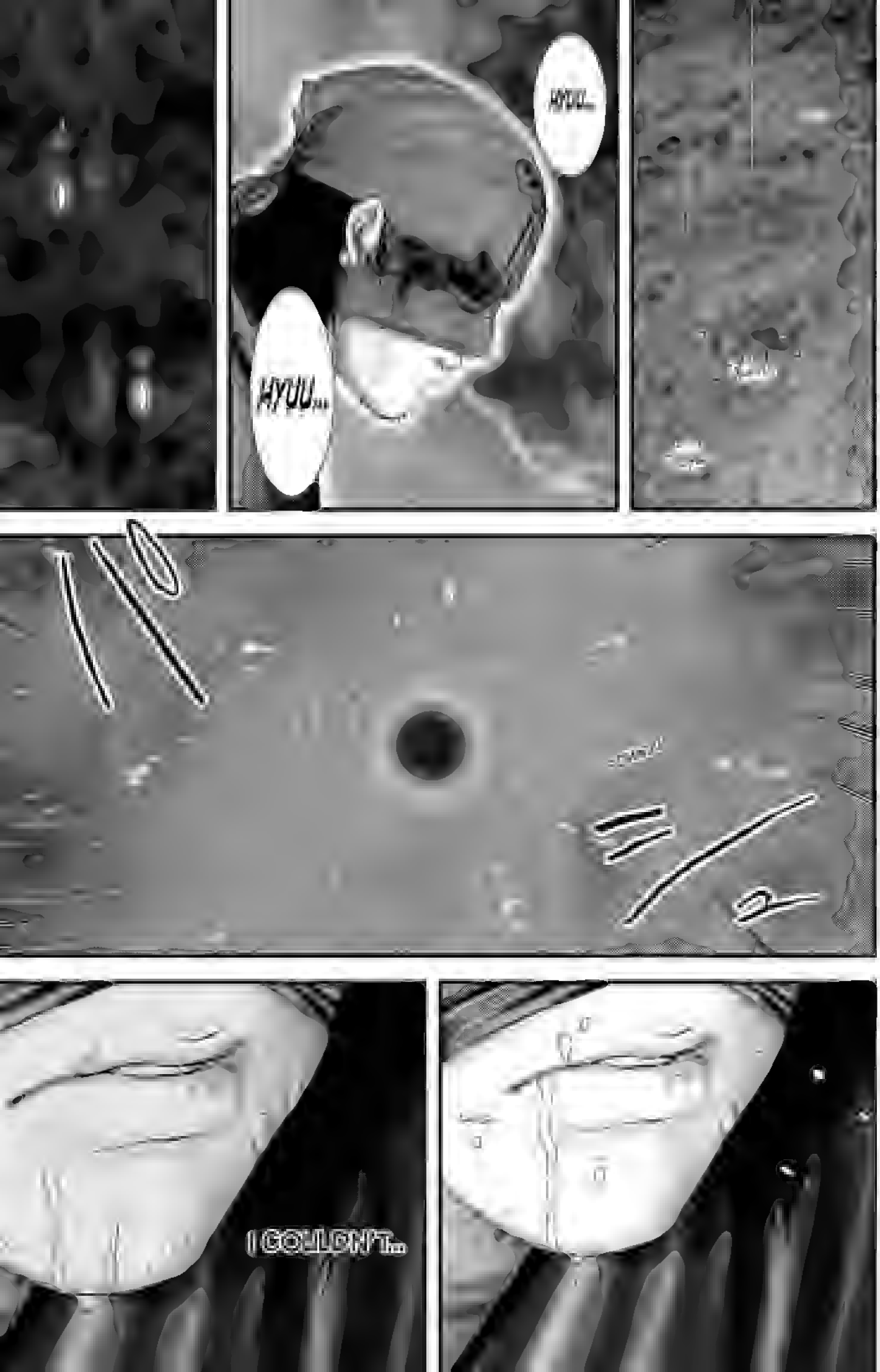
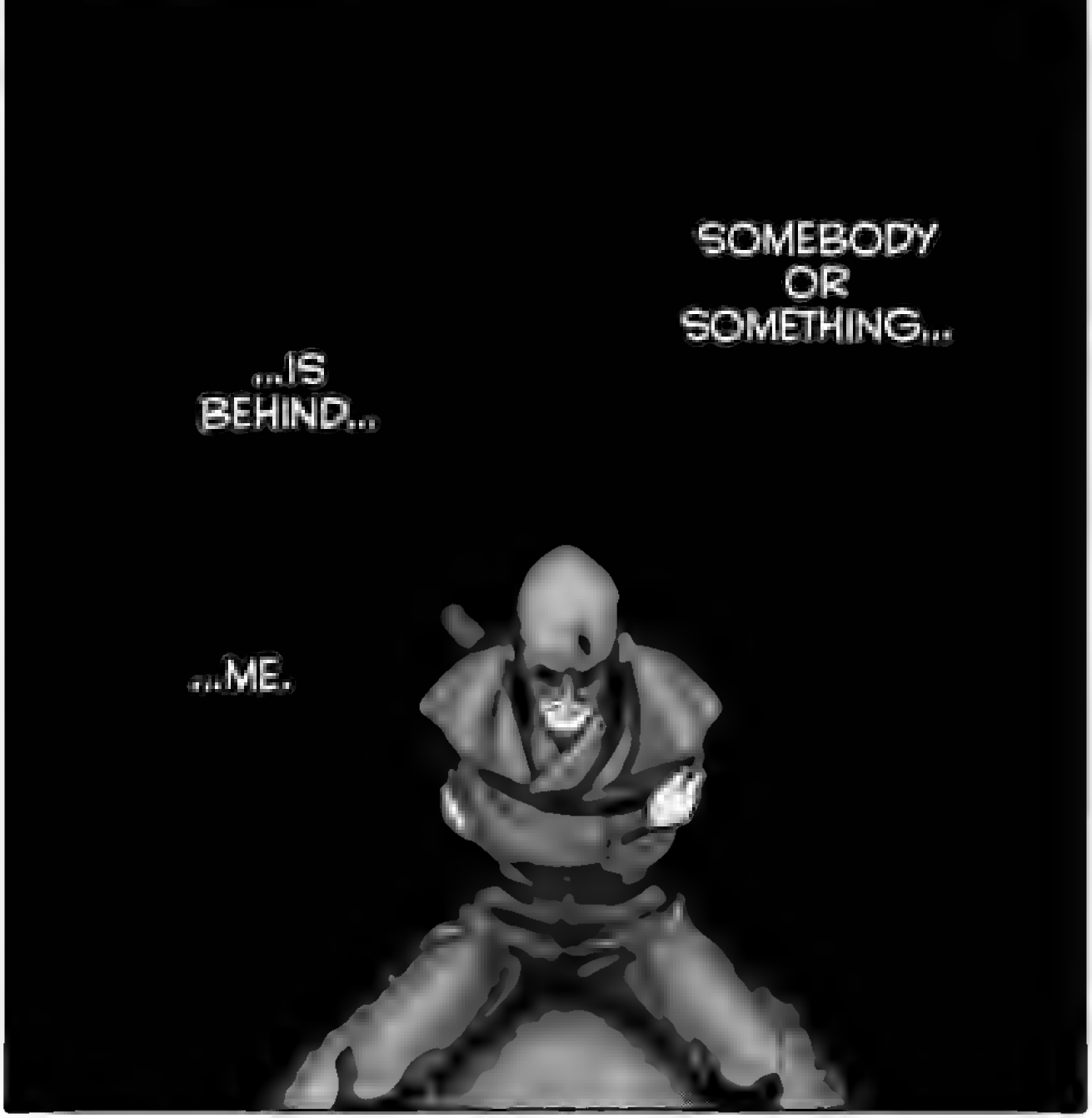

HYUU...
HYUU...
I GOULDN'T...

...AWAY FROM HIM.
...TEAR MY EYES...
IF...
...OBORO-SAMA HADN'T INTERVENED...
THOSE EYES...
...WOULD'VE KILLED ME.

...OR A DEVIL?
IS HE A MAN...
WHO'S THERE?


SOMEBODY
OR
SOMETHING...
...IS
BEHIND...
...ME.

URRMPH
WHO IS IT?
WHO IS IT?
WHO IS IT?
WHO'S THERE?

K-KOSHIROU-DONO!
KOSHIROU-DONO...

AH.
KO—
KOSHIROU-
DONO!

.....
PATHETIC...
TSSS
HOW COULD I BE...
...SO PATHETIC?
KRINCH
KOSHIROU-DONO.
.....

SOUND'S LIKE SAEMON AND KAGEROU HAVE RETURNED
WHAT HAPPENED, SAEMON?
NENKI MING?
IS THAT...
WE...
WE WENT AFTER KOTARUHI-SU?
WE LOST HER.
SHE LED US ASTRAY WITH HER BUTTER FLIES

THE EAST
SAEMON
WHERE WERE THE BUTTERFLIES HEADING?

THE IGA CLAN WILL PROBABLY COME FROM THAT DIRECTION.
THEN HOTARUBI MUST HAVE HEADED WEST.
TOWARDS THE SUZUKA PASS.

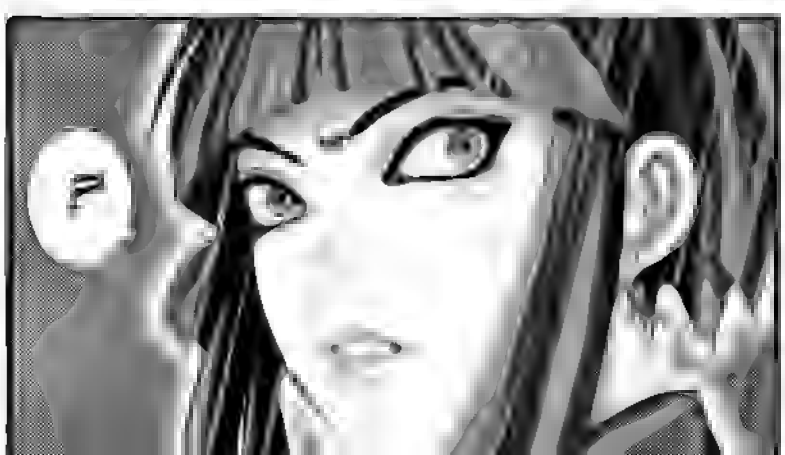
ちら、
PANCH

ガチャ

ザーーーー

HEH

TCH
GOD DAMN IT...


P

WELL, WELL, WELL...
HEY!
HOTARUBI!
MOMO-DONO
I FINALLY CAUGHT UP WITH YOU.
GOOD NEWS, HOTARUBI

I KILLED...
...THAT BASTARD GENNOSUKE!
END OF KILL NUMBER 16

風待将監

陽炎

鵜殿大助　徳川家

如月左衛門　室賀豹馬

地走十兵衛

風待将監

朱鋼

矢文

筑摩源次郎　甲賀弦之介

雨夜陣五郎　甲賀弾正

勢念源太　甲賀四郎

陽たまに一族甲賀四組十人衆

服部半蔵　伊賀十人衆

霧隠才蔵

猿飛佐助

真田幸村

のこるものこの秘巻をたずさえ五日後日駿

生きぬくことその教えをもちもとめし勝たま

し聞いて殺すべし

駿府城（ほかり）

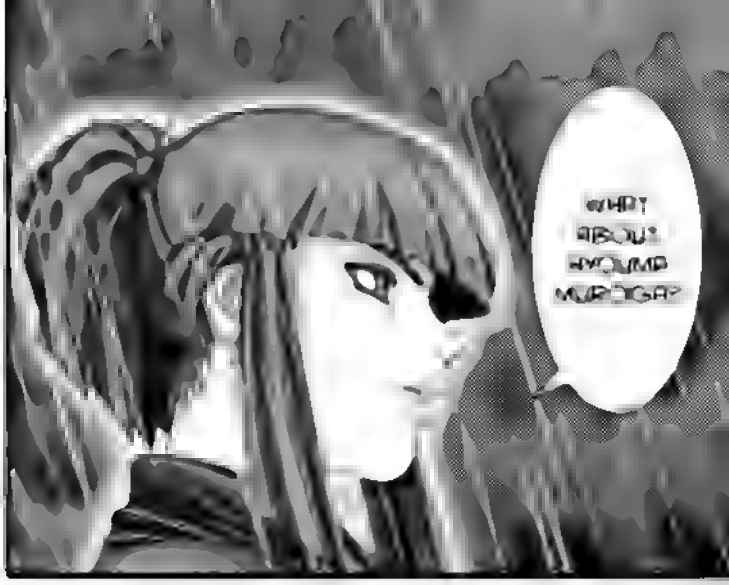
幸綱ちらん

NENKI-DONO.
... THAT BASTARD GENNO-SUKE!
GOOD NEWS, HOTARUBI! I KILLED...

KILL NUMBER 17

[5 VS 6 (PART 2)]

THAT GOES WITHOUT SAYING


WHAT ABOUT RYOUMA MURAGA?

SLAYING THOSE BLIND NINJA
WAS ALMOST TOO EASY!

WHAT ABOUT SAEMON KISARAGI?

EVEN MANAGED...
...TO TAKE CARE OF THE KOUGA NINJA KISARAGI AFTER YOU UNLEASHED YOUR BUTTERFLIES

I EXPECTED MORE FROM YOU, NENKI-DONO.
REALLY?
...HE MANAGED TO GET AWAY.
UNFORTU-NATELY...
...THAT IT WAS SAEMON KISARAGI...
...WHO KILLED YASHAMARU.
AH, THERE'S ONE MORE THING.
AS KAGEROU LET GO HER LAST BREATH, SHE TOLD ME...
!
TSSS

!
ガッ
DID I SAY TOO MUCH?
SHIT...

HOW COULD YOU LET HIM...
...GET AWAY, NENKI-DONO?
SAEMON-KISARAGI TRANSFORMED INTO YASHAMARU-DONO...
I HAD A FEELING IT WAS HIM.
HOW COULD YOU SLAY THE REST...
...BUT ALLOW SAEMON KISARAGI TO GET AWAY?

TSSS
...IT'S A MESSAGE FROM THE GODS.
BUT WAIT...
PERHAPS...

I KNOW I WILL!
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT HE TRANSFORMS INTO. I'LL SEE RIGHT THROUGH HIM!

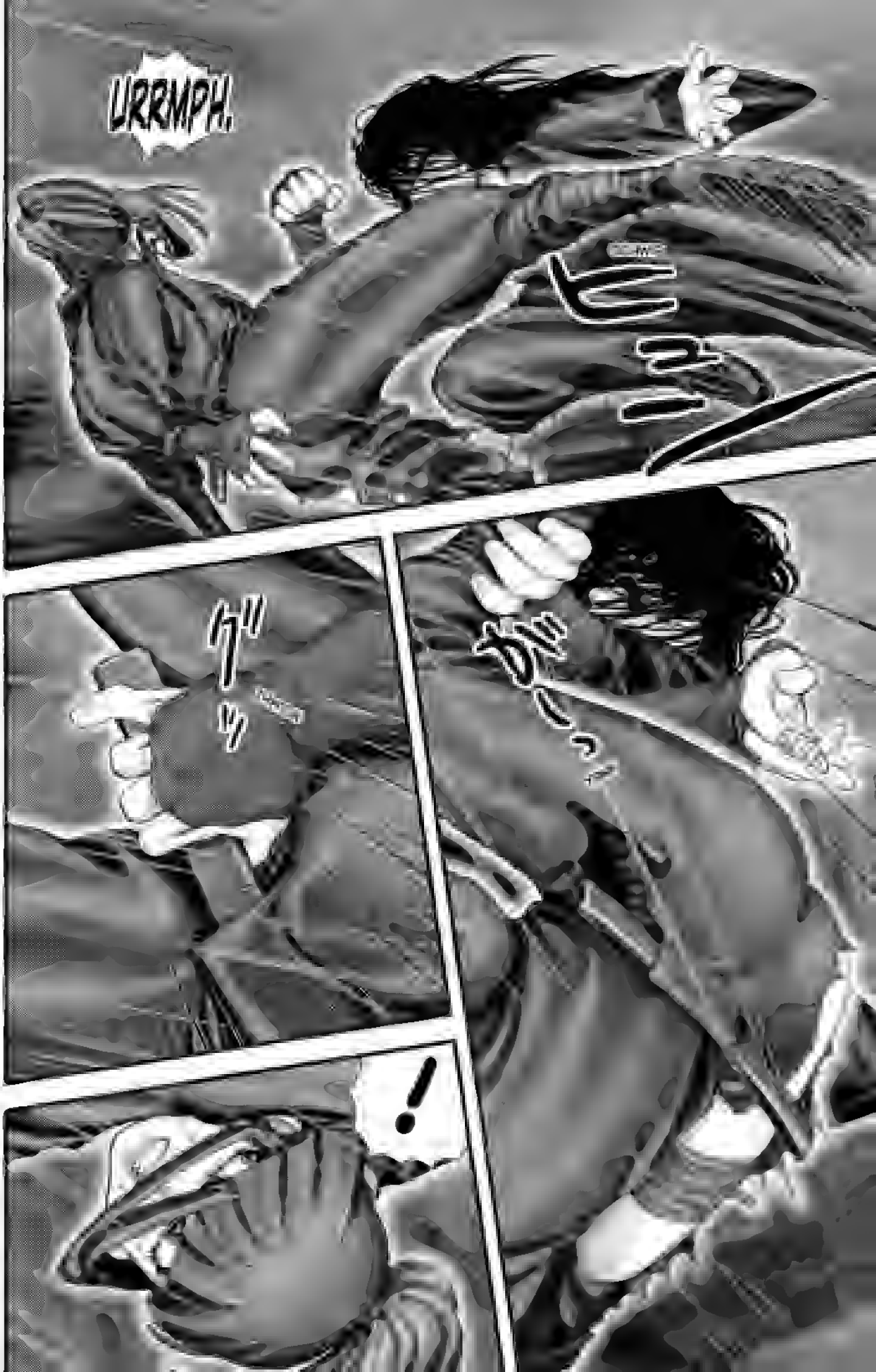
...TO KILL SAEMON KISARAGI MYSELF.
MAYBE IT'S MY DESTINY...

YOU THINK YOU CAN HANDLE HIM, HOTARUBI?
...THE BASTARD CAN TRANSFORM INTO ANYTHING.

...RIGHT THROUGH...
?

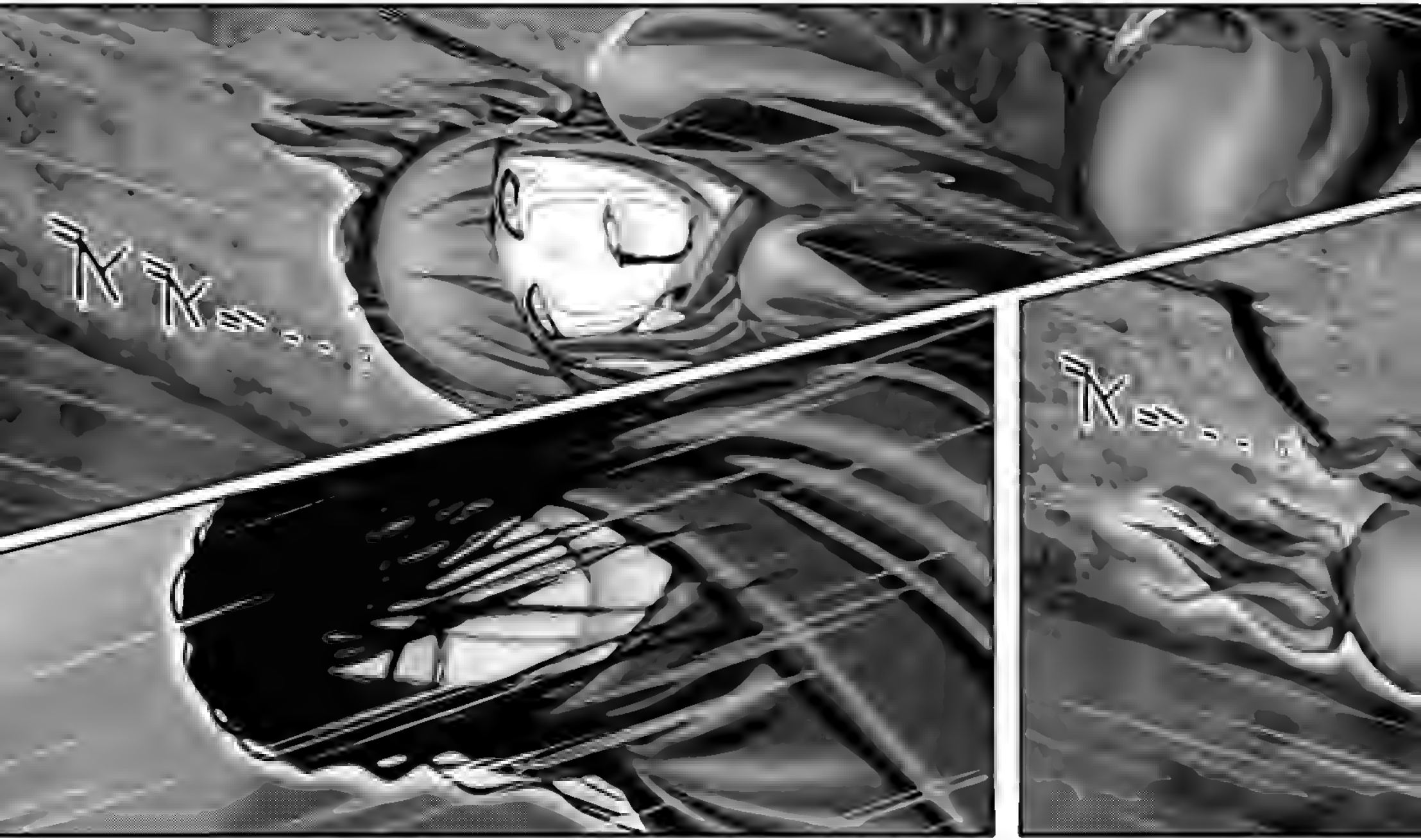
ARE YOU SURE...
...YOU CAN SEE THROUGH ME? HOTARUBI.
!

SLIDE


URRMPH.
!

ポタ
ポタ
AH...
AH...

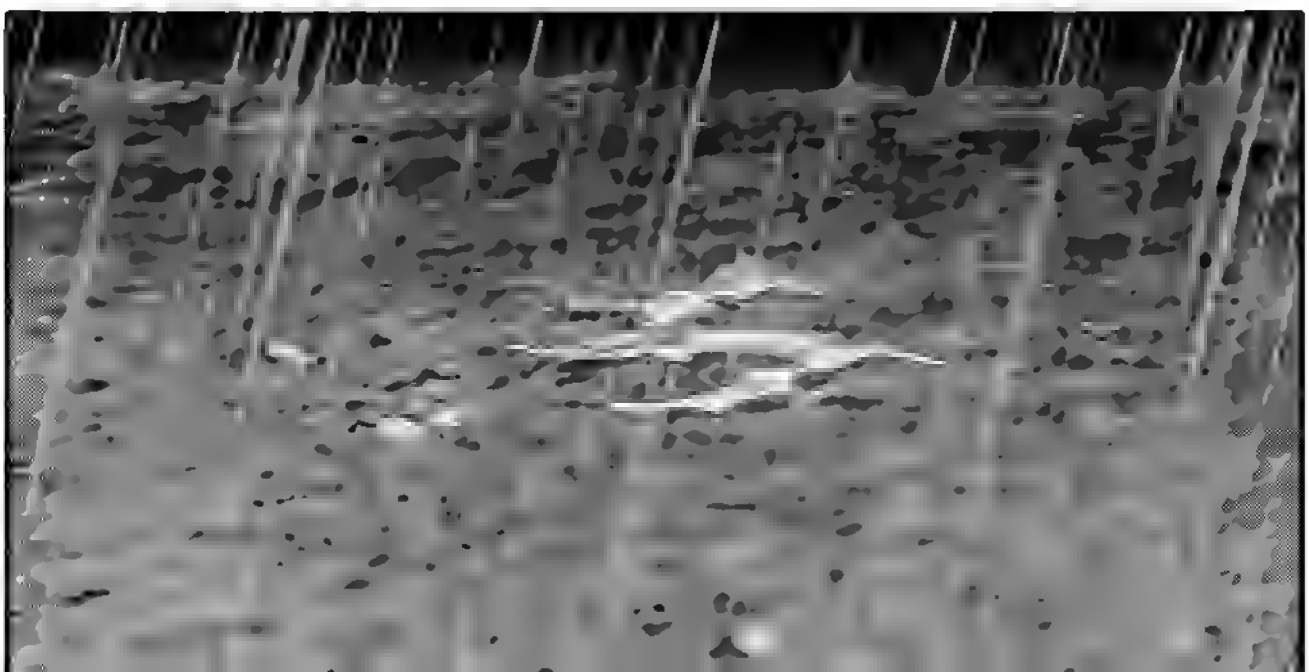
YA.. SHAMARU...
...ぐぐ...
...ぬ...
ヒック...

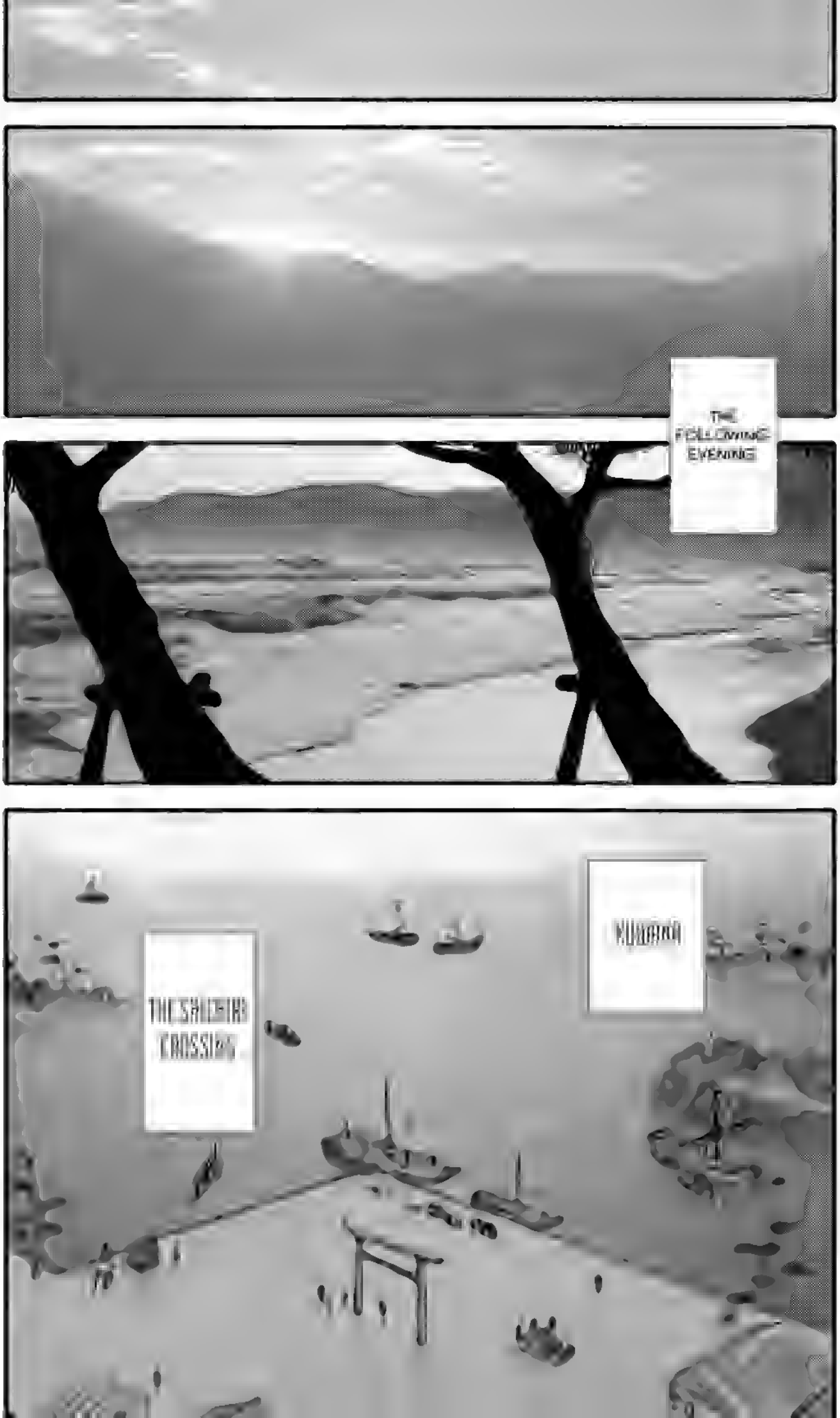


...TO KILL A WOMAN, BUT...
I HATE...
.....
...MY SISTER OKOI'S...
...MURDER.
I MUST AVENGE...

HOTARUBI..

A BATTLE BETWEEN NINJA...
...IS THE VERY IMAGE OF HELL.



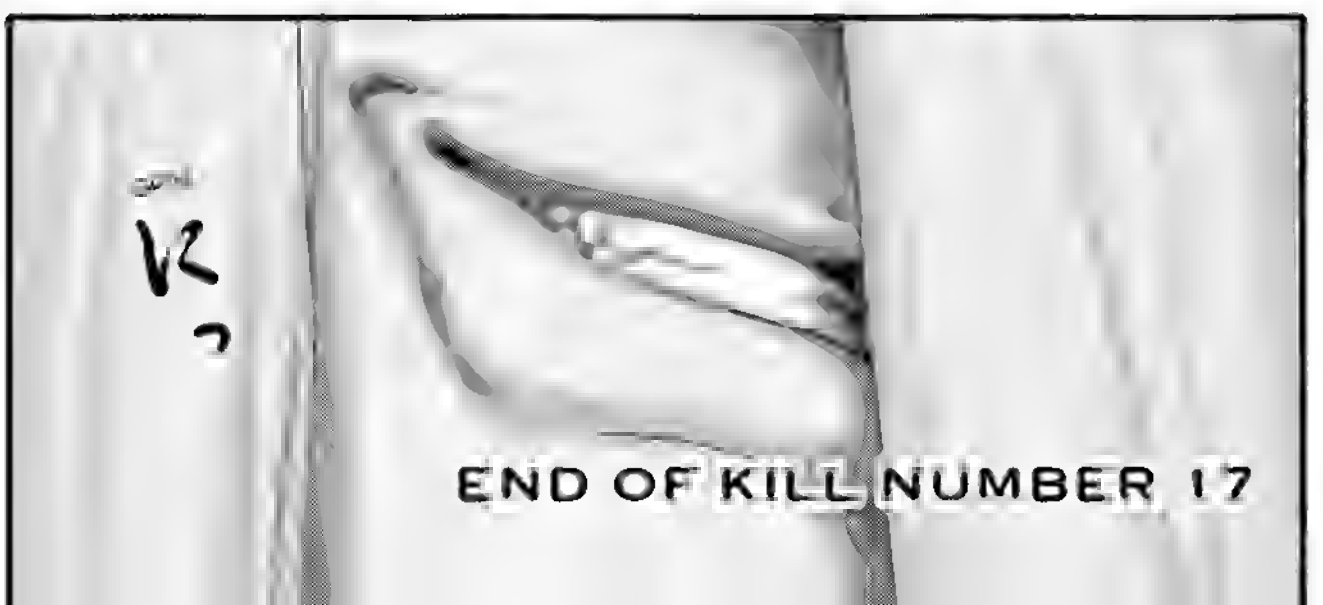

THE FOLLOWING EVENING

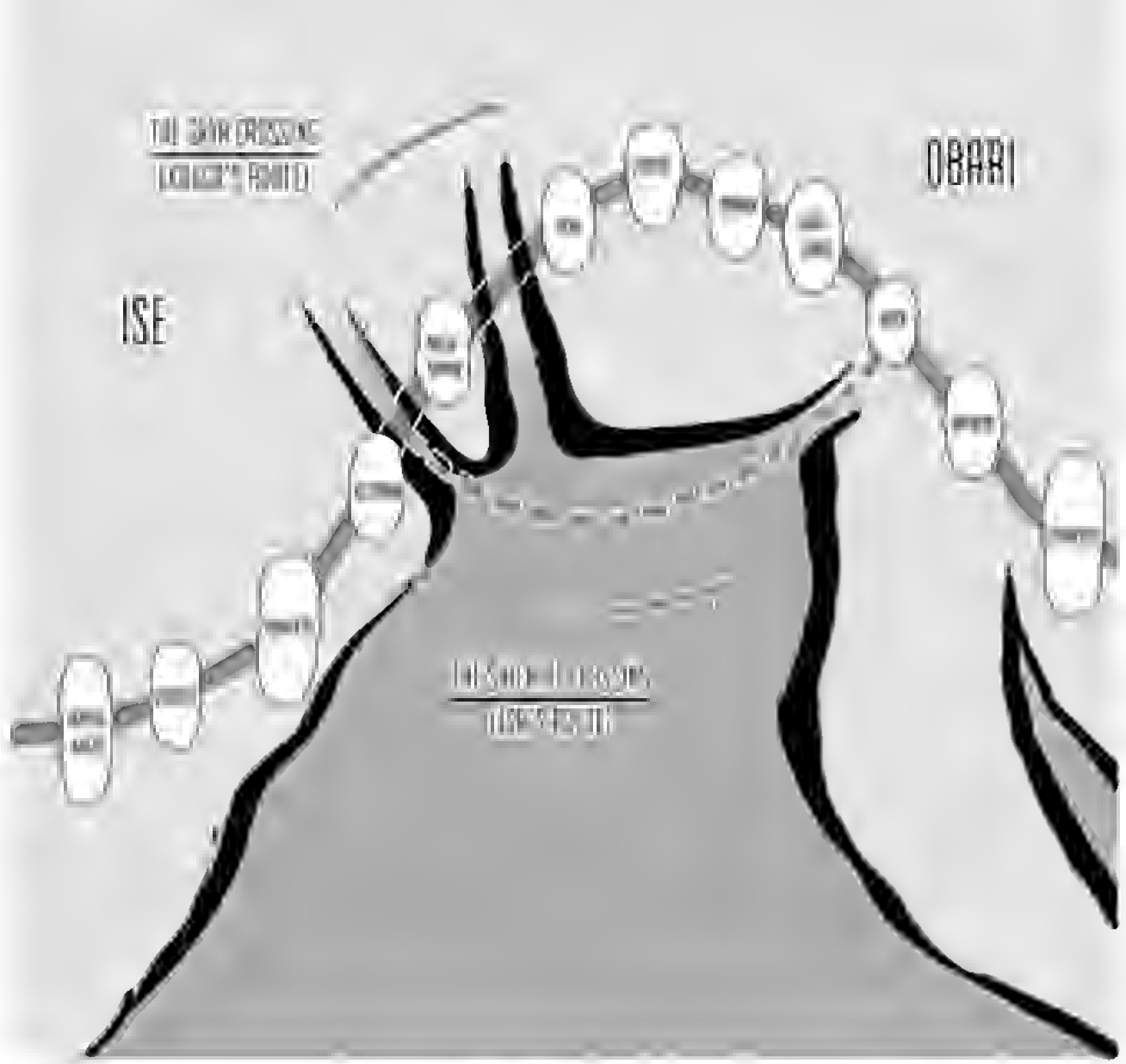
.....
WE HAVE TO CROSS OVER NEARLY SEVEN LEAGUES OF OCEAN.
SHIVER
SIGH...
.....
NENKI-DONO AND HOTARUBI STILL HAVEN'T RETURNED.
ARE WE REALLY GOING TO BOARD THE SHIP WITHOUT THEM?
UM...
TENZEN-DONO?
OUR FIRST PRIORITY...
...IS TO GET AHEAD OF THE KOUGA CLAN.

TCH... THAT FOOL NENKI
I HOPE HE DIDN'T GET HIMSELF KILLED

GENNOSUKE-SAMA...

.....


END OF KILL NUMBER 17


OBARI
ISE

THE KUROSHIO ROAD

KILL NUMBER 18

[5 VS 5]

SHIVER
SHIVER
SHIVER

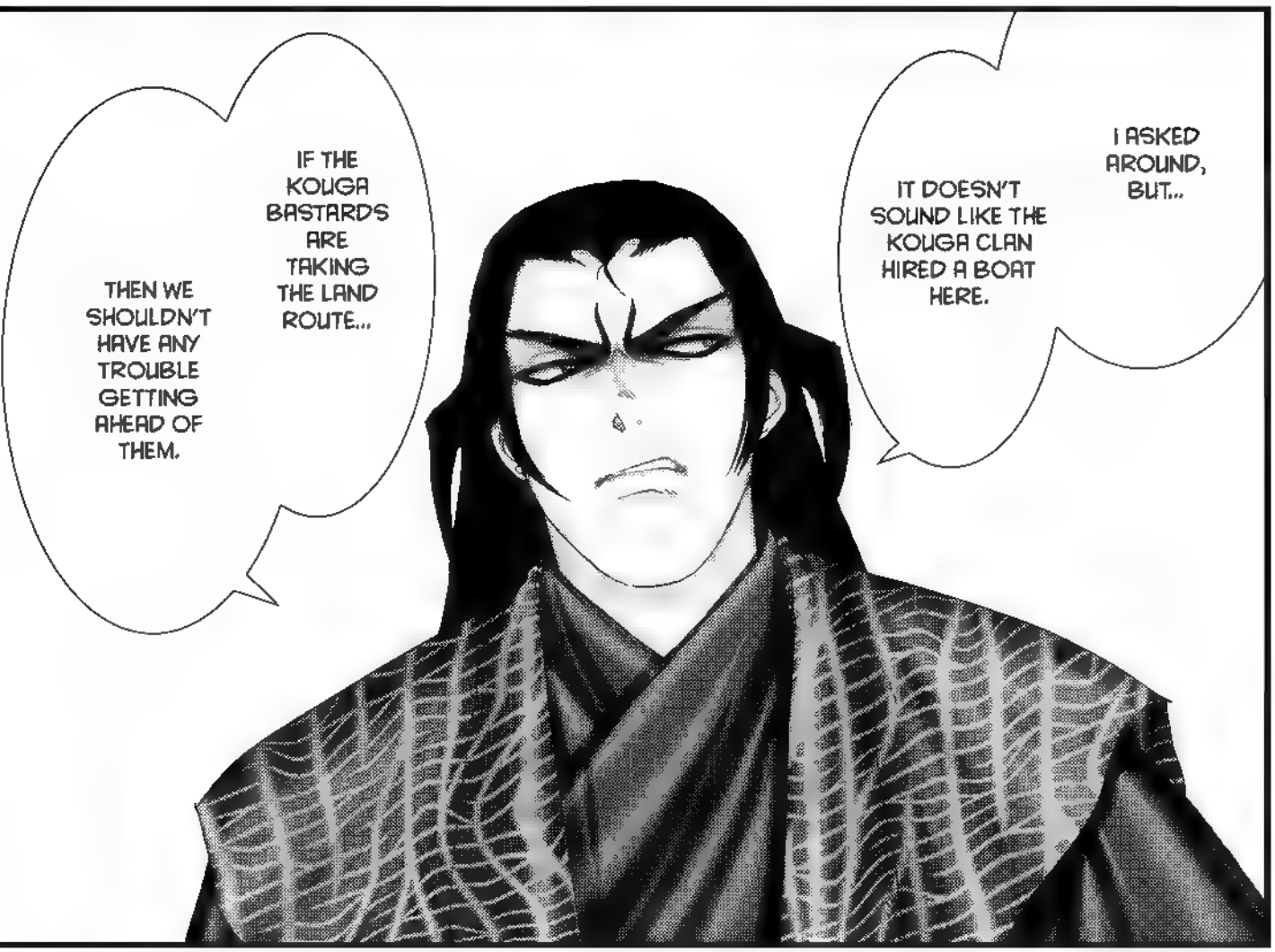
DO YOU REALLY HATE THE SEA THAT MUCH, JINGOROU-DONO?

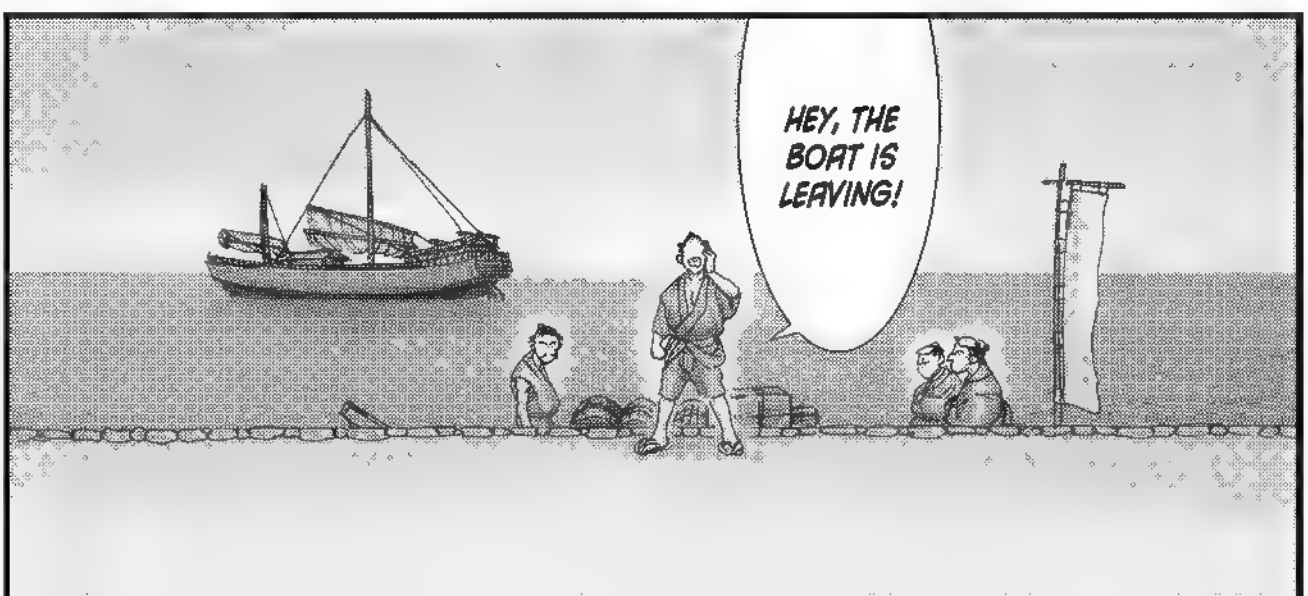
AND USE THE SAYA CROSS-ING?
CAN'T WE JUST GO BY LAND

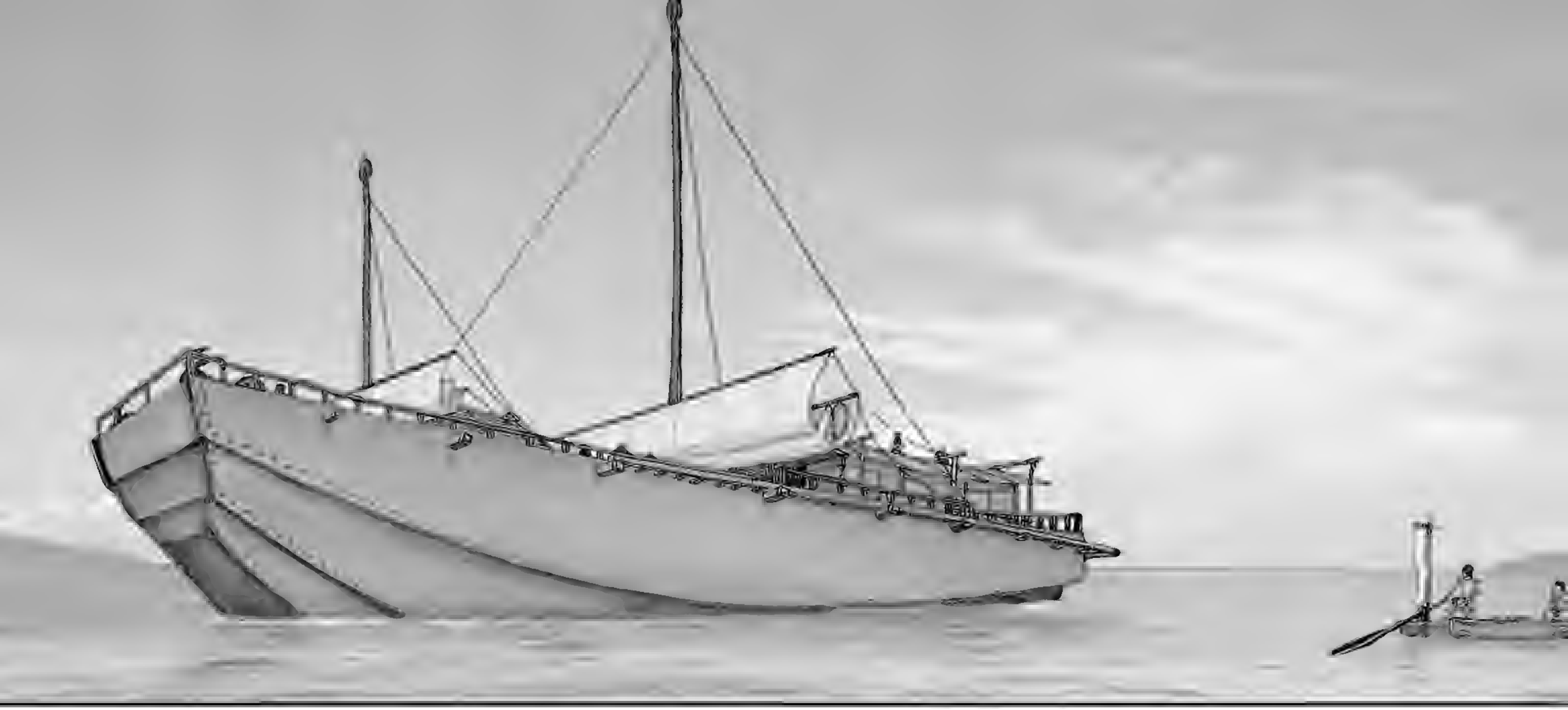
WHEN MY BODY COMES IN CONTACT WITH SALT, I MELT. IMAGINE WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF I FELL IN THE OCEAN.
ICH. JUST THINKING ABOUT IT MAKES ME SHIVER

DAMN RIGHT I DO!

QUIT COMPLAINING, JINGOROU.
IT'S NOT LIKE I'M ASKING YOU TO SWIM ACROSS.
I KNOW. I KNOW.
THINK THAT MAKES ME FEEL ANY BETTER?

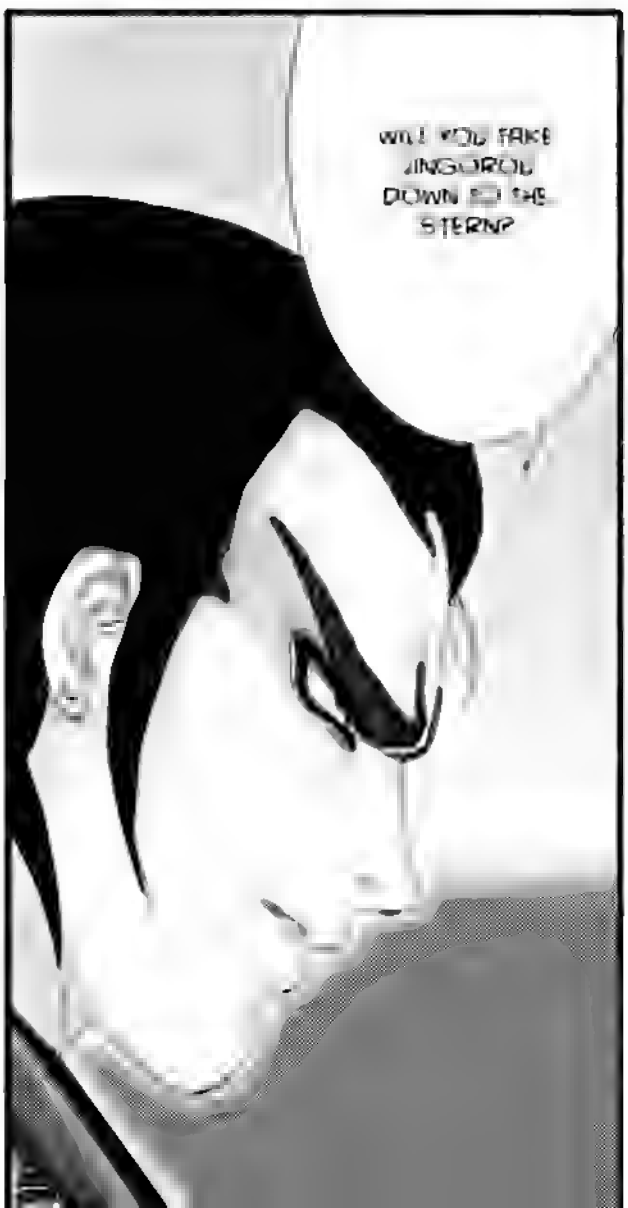

I ASKED AROUND, BUT...
IT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE THE KOUGA CLAN HIRED A BOAT HERE.
IF THE KOUGA BASTARDS ARE TAKING THE LAND ROUTE...
THEN WE SHOULDN'T HAVE ANY TROUBLE GETTING AHEAD OF THEM.


HEY, THE BOAT IS LEAVING!



1

THIS WAY
YOSHIRO-
KUN!


WILL YOU TAKE
JINGOROU
DOWN TO THE
STERN?

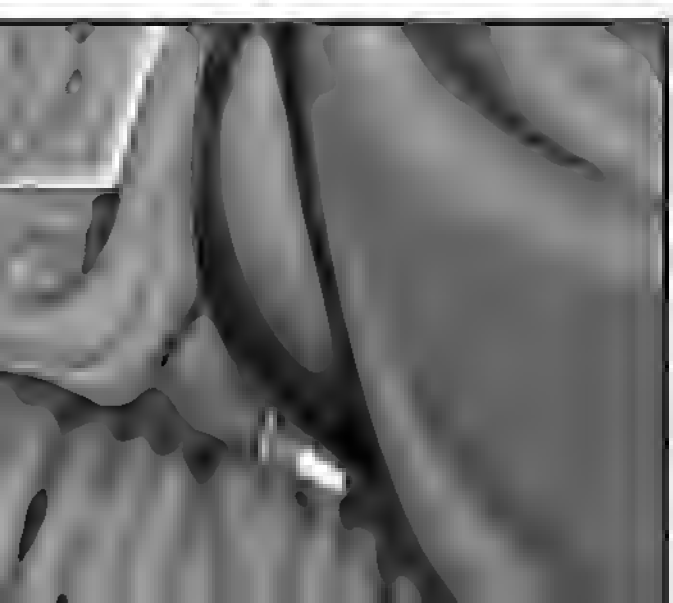
YES?

HAVE KOSHIROU KEEP A LOOKOUT.
I'LL TAKE OBORO-SAMA INTO THE HOLD... MAKE SURE NONE OF THE OTHER PASSENGERS FOLLOW.
OKAY, I CAN DO THAT.
BUT...MAY I ASK WHY?
IF WE JUST LET HIM SIT IN THE PASSAGEWAY, HIS LOOKS ALONE SHOULD SCARE OFF THE OTHER PASSENGERS.
WHEN WE ARRIVE IN MIYA HARBOR...
WE MIGHT BE WALKING SMACK DAB INTO THE KOUGA CLAN.

OBORO-SAMA IS STILL IN A DAZE
THIS IS A VERY FRAGILE SITUATION
WHILE WE'RE AT SEA, I'LL TRY TO GET AN IDEA OF WHAT HER INTENSIONS ARE, AND...
...MAKE SURE SHE'S MENTALLY AND PHYSICALLY PREPARED FOR WHAT LIES AHEAD.
I UNDERSTAND.

THE REAR OF THE SHIP

スッ



"TSUN"
WHERE ARE AKEGINU AND THE OTHERS?
AKEGINU AND JINGOROU ARE AT THE REAR END OF THE SHIP
WHY DON'T THEY
COME HERE?

THERE IS SOME-
THING THAT
MUST ASK YOU
WHAT
IS IT?
OBORO-SAMA...
A FEW DAYS AGO, YOU
SAID THAT YOU COULD
NEVER FIGHT AGAINST
GENNOSUKE
KOUGA
DO YOU
STILL FEEL
THAT WAY?

I CAN NO LONGER SEE WITH THESE EYES.
TENZEN...EVEN IF I WANTED TO FIGHT, I COULDN'T...

.....
BUT YOU ARE ONLY BLIND FOR SEVEN NIGHTS.

THEN...
SOME TIME DURING THE NEXT FIVE DAYS...

AND TWO NIGHTS HAVE ALREADY PASSED.
IN FIVE MORE DAYS, YOUR VISION WILL RETURN.

I SHALL LET GENNOSUKE-SAMA TAKE MY LIFE.

I SUSPECTED AS MUCH.
YOUR MIND HASN'T CHANGED.
VERY WELL THEN.

ARE YOU GOING TO KILL ME, TENZEN?
.....
NO...
I WON'T KILL YOU.
I'LL KEEP YOU ALIVE.

AHH.
WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
I'M GOING TO...
...FILL YOU WITH THE ESSENCE OF LIFE.
THE ESSENCE OF IGA.
THE... ESSENCE OF...
...IGA?

OBORO-SAMA.
I WANT YOU TO BE MY WIFE.
SWIP
H—
HOW DARE YOU!
GRIP
THUD
AH.
YANK

AH.
TENZEN!
LET GO OF ME, TENZEN!
THIS IS THE ONLY WAY TO MAKE YOU...
...FORGET ABOUT GENNOSUKE KOUGA!
THIS IS THE ONLY WAY YOU'LL LEARN TO ACCEPT THAT HE IS YOUR TRUE ENEMY!

O-OGEN-SAMA IS...
...WATCHING YOU!
HEH...
OGEN-SAMA IS ALREADY DEAD.
AND EVEN IF OGEN-SAMA WERE ALIVE TODAY...
YANK
AH.
SHE WOULD BE TELLING YOU THE SAME THING.
SHWIP

NOT UNDER THESE CIRCUM-STANCES...
THERE'S NO WAY IN HELL SHE'D LET YOU MARRY A ROUGH NINJA!
AH.
WE MUST KEEP THE IGA BLOOD ALIVE.
WE CAN-NOT ALLOW OGEN-SAMA'S BLOODLINE TO END WITH YOU.

KYAA A.....

!

WHO BETTER TO BE YOUR HUSBAND THAN ONE OF THE IGA MEN THAT...
...OGEN-SAMA CHOSE FOR THIS BATTLE?
BUT WHAT MAN CAN KEEP..
...YOUR IGA LINEAGE ALIVE?

WHO...
...WILL YOU CHOOSE?

I DON'T WANT ANY OF YOU! KILL ME, TENZEN!
NO!

AND THREE OF OUR IGA MEN ARE ALREADY DEAD.
THAT LEAVES ONLY JINGOROU, KOSHIROU AND MYSELF.

NO! I CAN'T KILL YOU!
YOU ARE THE SYMBOLIC LEADER OF THE IGA CLAN!
IN ORDER FOR OUR VICTORY TO BE TRUE...
WE MUST KEEP YOU ALIVE!
JINGOROU!
AKEGINU!
BE QUIET!
EVERYONE AGREED THAT THIS WAS OUR ONLY RECOURSE!

HEH HEH... THE OLD NINJA TECHNIQUES ARE USELESS
...WHEN IT COMES TO CONQUERING A WOMAN.
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE NOT ENJOYING THIS
HEH...
NOT EVEN GENNOSUKE HAS LAID HIS HANDS UPON THESE BREASTS.
THE ONLY WAY TO WIN OVER A WOMAN...
...IS TO BE INSIDE OF HER.
IT!
NO!
KOSHIROU!

KOSHIROU!
HYUU.
HYUU.
HYUU.

HYUUUU.
TENZEN-SAMA..
PLEASE STOP...
TENZEN-SAMA...
END OF KILL NUMBER 18

OBORO-SAMA.
I WANT YOU TO BE MY WIFE.
KILL ME, TENZEN!
NEVER!
QUIET! EVERYBODY AGREES THAT THIS IS OUR ONLY RECOURSE!
HOW COULD YOU DO SUCH A THING?
TENZEN-SAMA...
HOW...

KILL NUMBER 19

[5 VS 5 (PART 2)]

FLAP
THE STERN

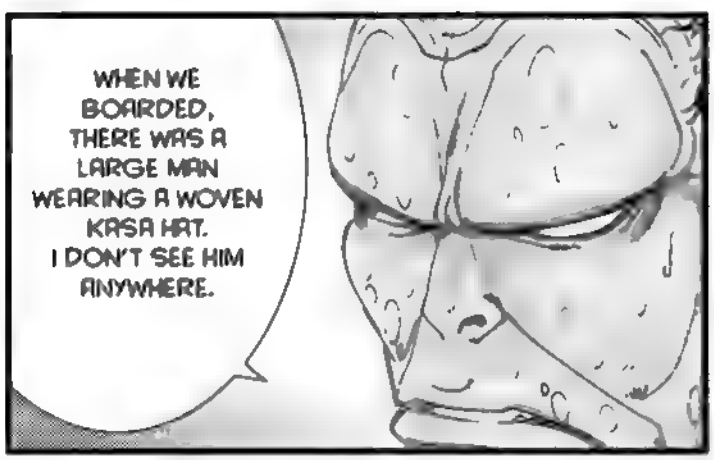
SOMEONE'S MISSING

THE HAVEN SEEMS STARTLED. PERHAPS SOMETHING HAPPENED IN THE HOLD?
JAGGER DEAD

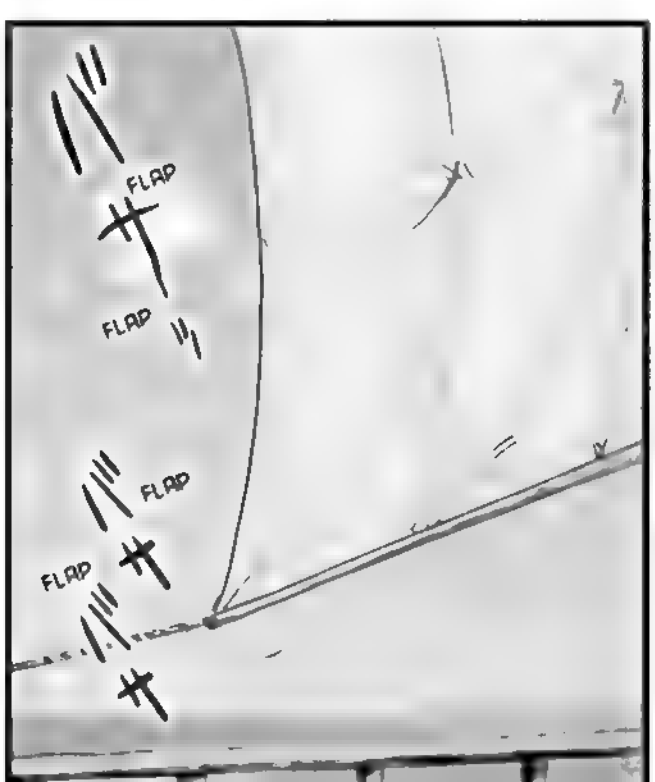
ONE OF THE PASSENGERS...
...IS MISSING.
HUH?

.....
すっ
SWI
FLAP
FLAP

YOU'RE RIGHT...


WHEN WE BOARDED, THERE WAS A LARGE MAN WEARING A WOVEN KASA HAT. I DON'T SEE HIM ANYWHERE.

THE FRONT OF THE SHIP
..RRMPH


FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP

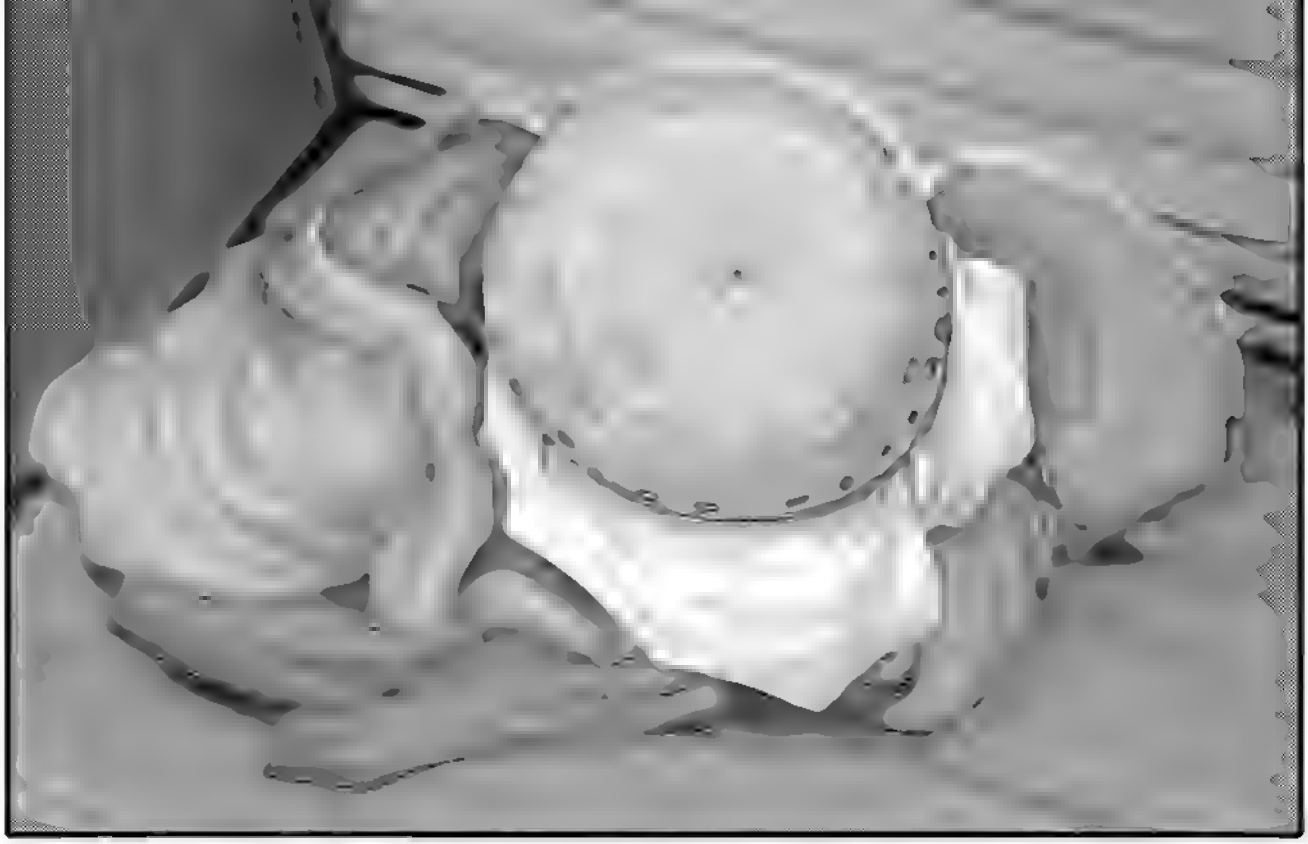
OBORO-SAMA...TO BECOME...
...HIS WIFE.
I HAVE NO OBJECTIONS...
TENZEN-SAMA... WANTS OUR LEADER...
TE—
E-EVEN IF I DID... I COULD NEVER SPEAK OUT...
CRINCH
...AGAINST TENZEN-SAMA...
KYAAA!

OBORO-SAMA...
IS OUR LEADER...

THE LEADER OF THE IGA TSUBAGAKURE CLAN!

H-HOW...
HOW CAN I ALLOW OUR LEADER...
...TO SUFFER SUCH CRUELTY?
SHIVER
SHIVER
SHIVER
HYUU...
HYUU...
HYUU...
NO!
THWUP
KOSHIROU!

KOSHIROU!
O-OBORO-SAMA!
OBORO-SAMA!



HE DISAPPEARED?
IT CAN'T BE...

WH-WHAT THE—

DAMN IT!
!

STOP!
TENZEN-SAMA!
T-TENZEN-SAMA!
GACK...

ヘヘヘ…

ヘヘヘ…

ヘヘヘ…

T—
TENZEN-SAMA?
HAH
HAH
PUP
TAP

OBORO
SAMA?
O-
KO-
KIOSHIROU?

HE TRIED TO—
TATENZEN...

WH-WHAT THE—
HAS HE DIED?

KOSHIRO!!

OH—
OH GOD SAKI...

DID YOU...
...SAVE ME, KOSHIROU?
DID YOU...
...KILL HIM, OBORO-SAMA?
DIE
...

TENZEN!
OBORO-SAMA!
TCH.

DAMN IT.
THUD
WAS IT HIM?

HE'S OUT-SIDE!
WAH!
WHA-?

GYO-
GYOUBU KASUMI!

WAHHH!
WAAHHH!
A-
AKEGINUUU!
!

AAAHHH.
AAAHHH.
JINGOROU-DONO!

SOMEONE FELL OVER-BOARD!
NOO...
..OOOOO.

WAAHHH!
AHHH!
WH-WHAT THE HELL IS THAT THING?
IT'S MELTING...
M-MAYBE IT'S THE SALT WATER...
AAHHH...

H-HELP ME!
AKEGINUUUU!
GINGOROU-DONO!
PLUP
NO
ぴゅ
ぴゅ
ぴゅ

WHA-?

WHA
...
AHHH!
END OF KILL NUMBER 19

WHA-
AHHH!
WHAT THE-?
?

TE-
TEN...
...ZEN.

KILL NUMBER 20

[5 VS 5 (PART 3)]

VERY IMPRESSIVE, GYOUBU.
YOU NEARLY HAD ME THERE.
I-I CRUSHED YOUR WIND-PIPE.
YOU BASTARD...
I SAW YOU DIE WITH MY OWN EYES!

!
YOU'RE NOT GETTING AWAY...
GYOUBU!

AHH!
ズズズズ
NOOO.

NICE WORK, REGINA.

HYAAA!
WAH!

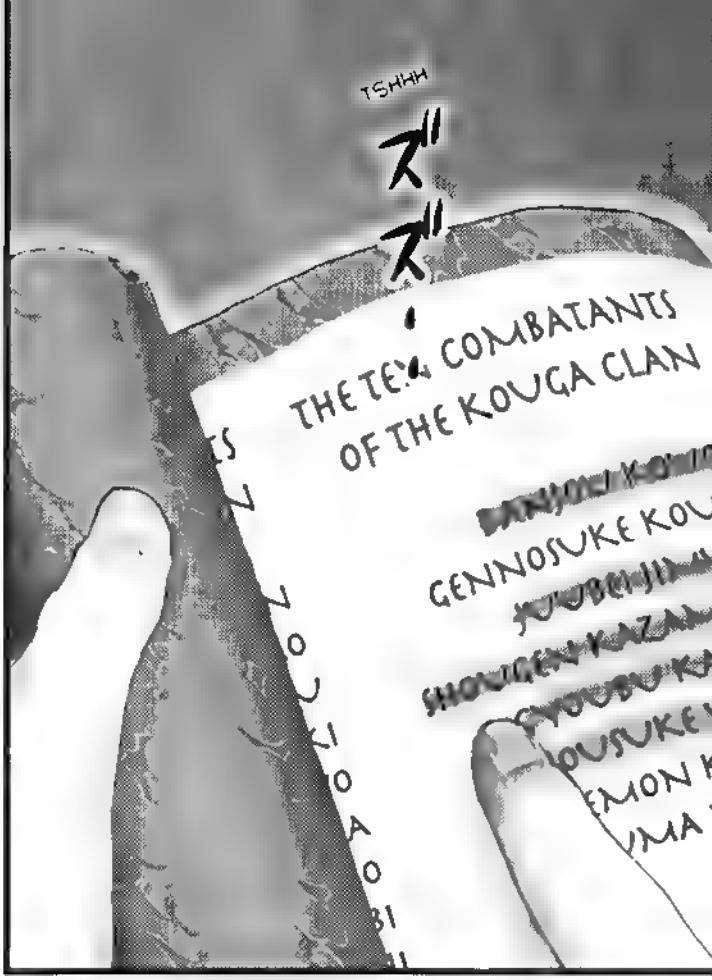
WAHH
RAH
WOL
AWAY

THAT'S THE END OF...

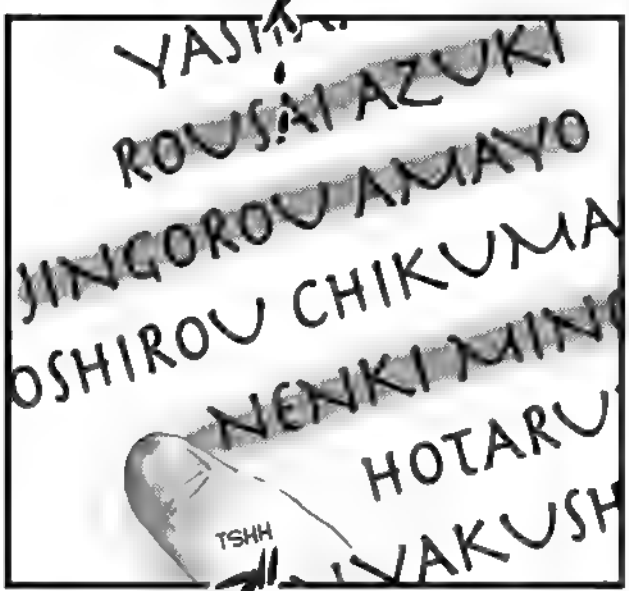
Uh—
UNGORGU-
DONG!
AH.
!

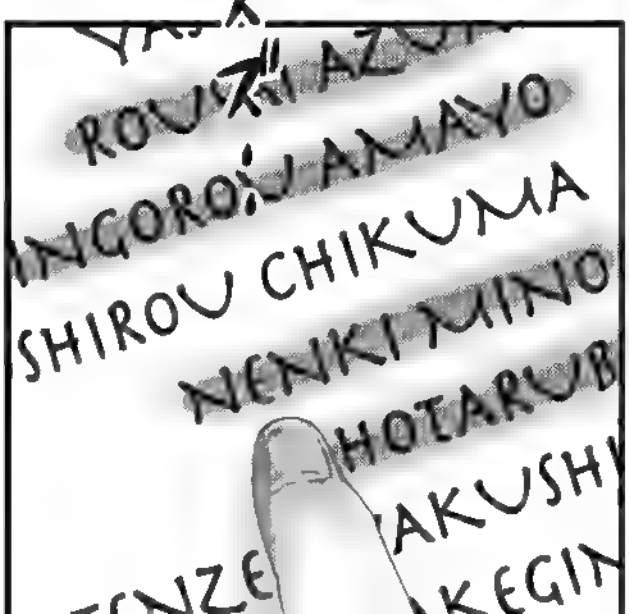
ARIGATOU
GOZAIMASU...

……


TSHHH
THE TEN COMBATANTS
OF THE KOUGA CLAN
GENNOSUKE KOU

OGEN
OBORO
TSHH


ROUSAI AZUKI
JINGOROU AMAYO
OSHIROU CHIKUMA
HOTARU
TSHH


SHIROU CHIKUMA
HOTARUBI

……
HOTARUBI AND MINO...
...ARE PROBABLY GONE AS WELL.

THIS CONTRACT HEREBY NULLIFIES THE TRUCE PUT INTO EFFECT BY HANZO HATTORI. THE TEN KOUGA NINJA AND THE TEN IGA NINJA NAMED ON THIS SCROLL WILL FIGHT TO THE DEATH. THE SURVIVORS MUST DELIVER THIS SCROLL TO THE SUNPU CASTLE ON THE LAST DAY OF MAY, UPON WHICH THE SURVIVING CLAN SHALL RULE FOR 1,000 YEARS.

APRIL, KEICHO YEAR 19

IEYASU TOKUGAWA

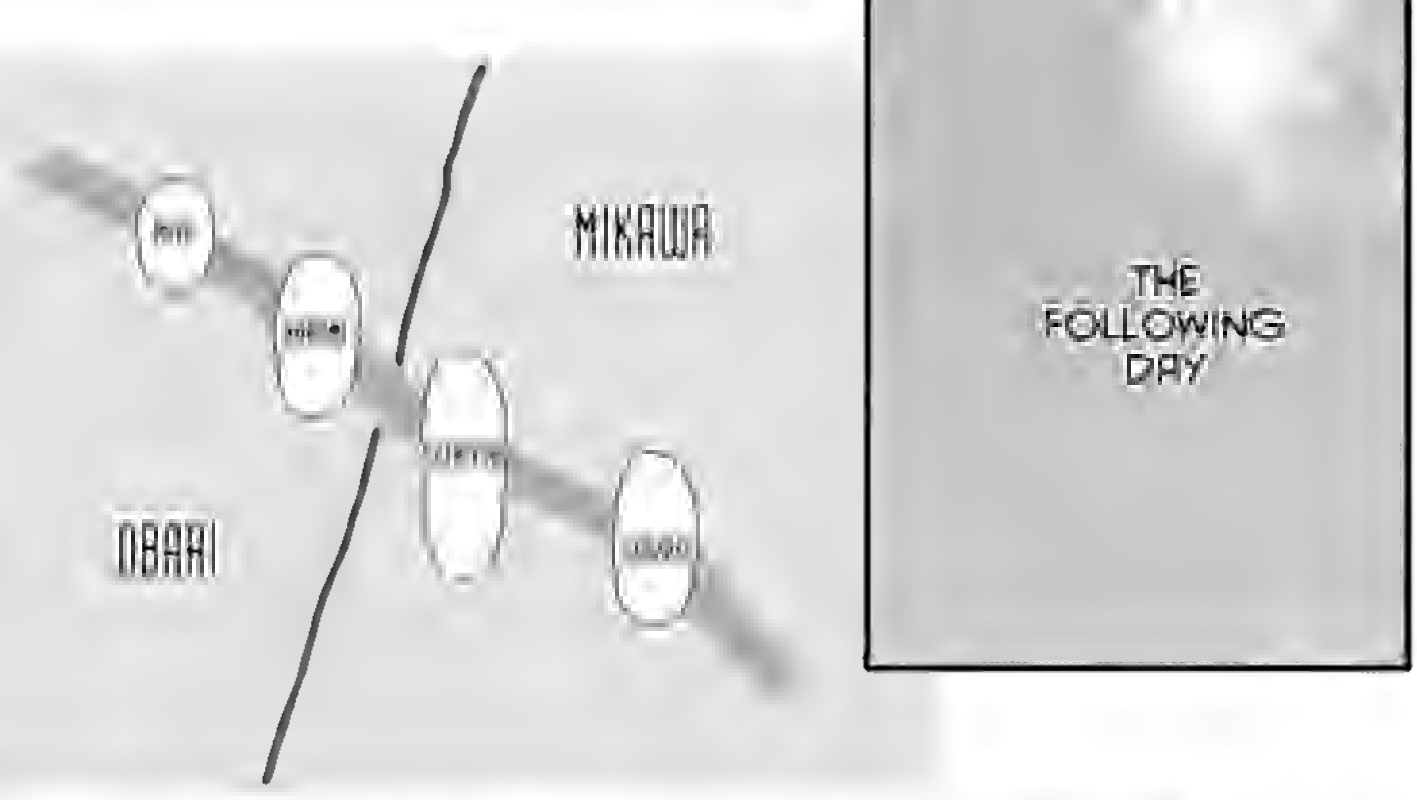
THE TEN COMBATANTS OF THE IGA CLAN

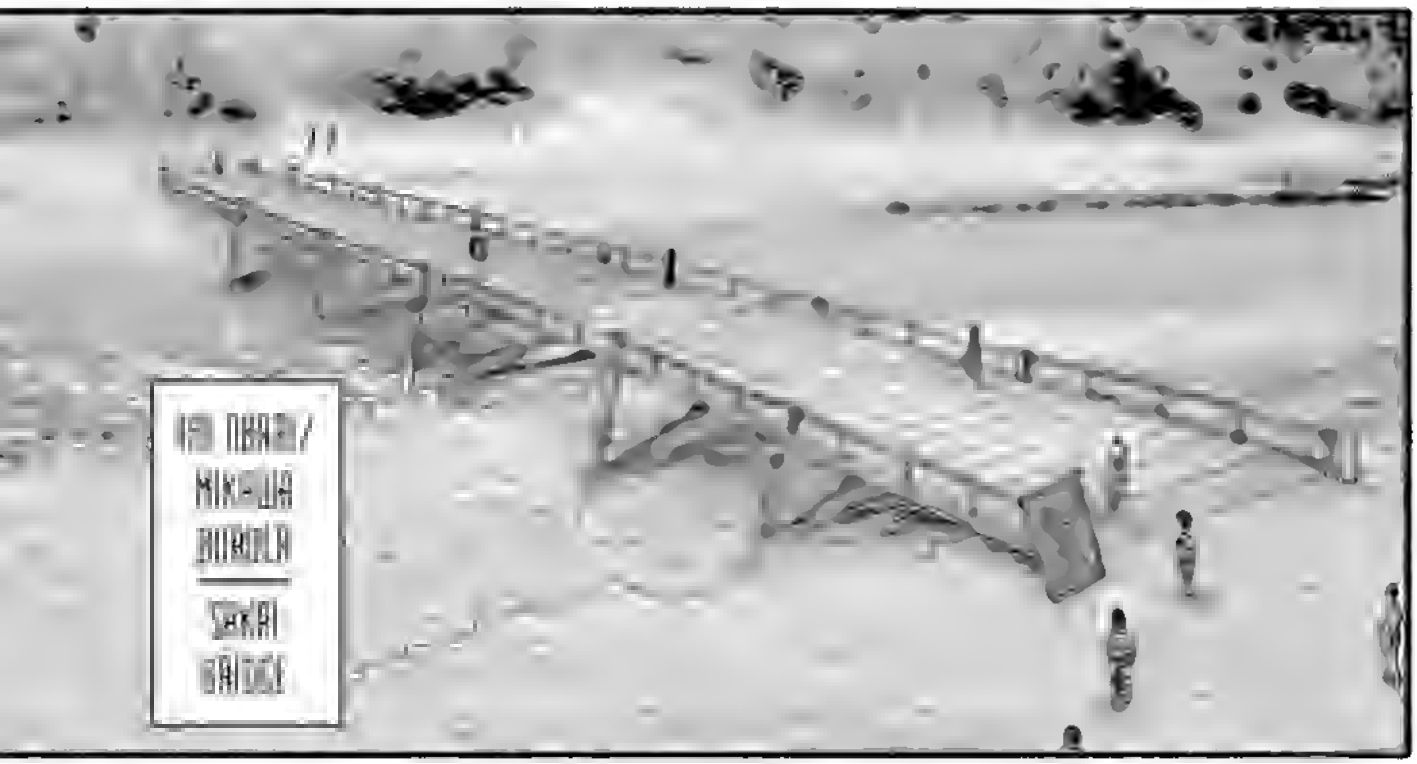
OGEN
OBORO
YASHAMARU
ROUSAI AZUKI
JINGOROU ANAYO
KOSHIROU CHIKUMA
NENKI MINO
HOTARUBI
TENZENYAKUSHIJI
AKEGINU

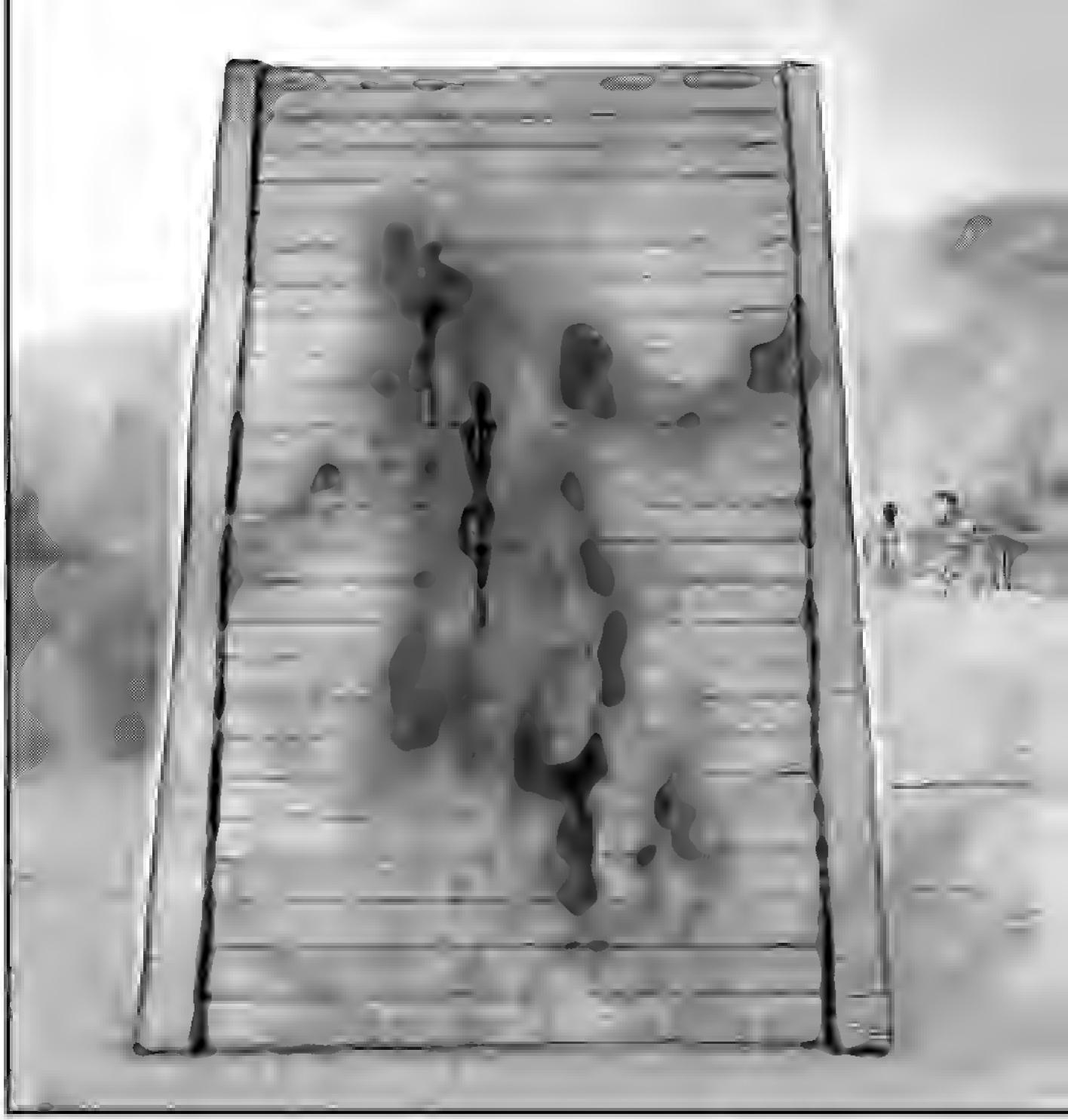
THE TEN COMBATANTS OF THE KOUGA CLAN

DANJOU KOUGA
GENNOSUKE KOUGA
JUUBEI JINMUSHI
SHOUGEN KAZAMACHI
GYOUBU KASUMI
JOUSUKE UDONO
SAEMON KISARAGI
HYOUMA MUROGA
KAGEROU
OKOI

...WILL SURVIVE THIS BATTLE.
BUT ONLY THE IGA CLAN...


MIKAWA
OWARI
THE FOLLOWING DAY

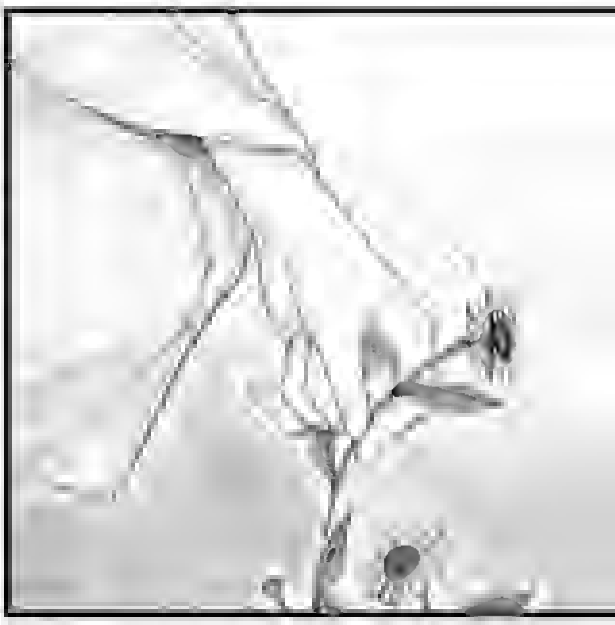


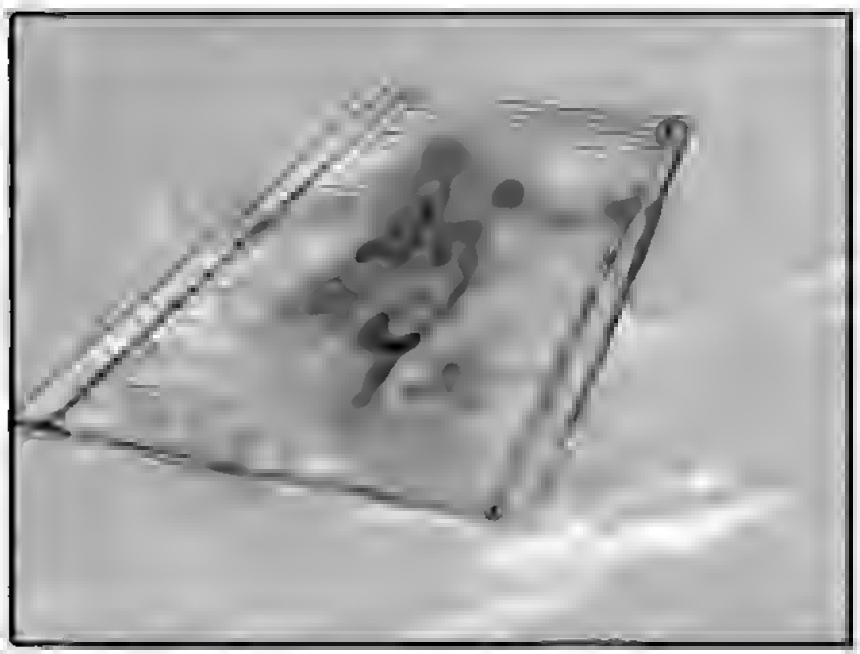


GYOUBU...

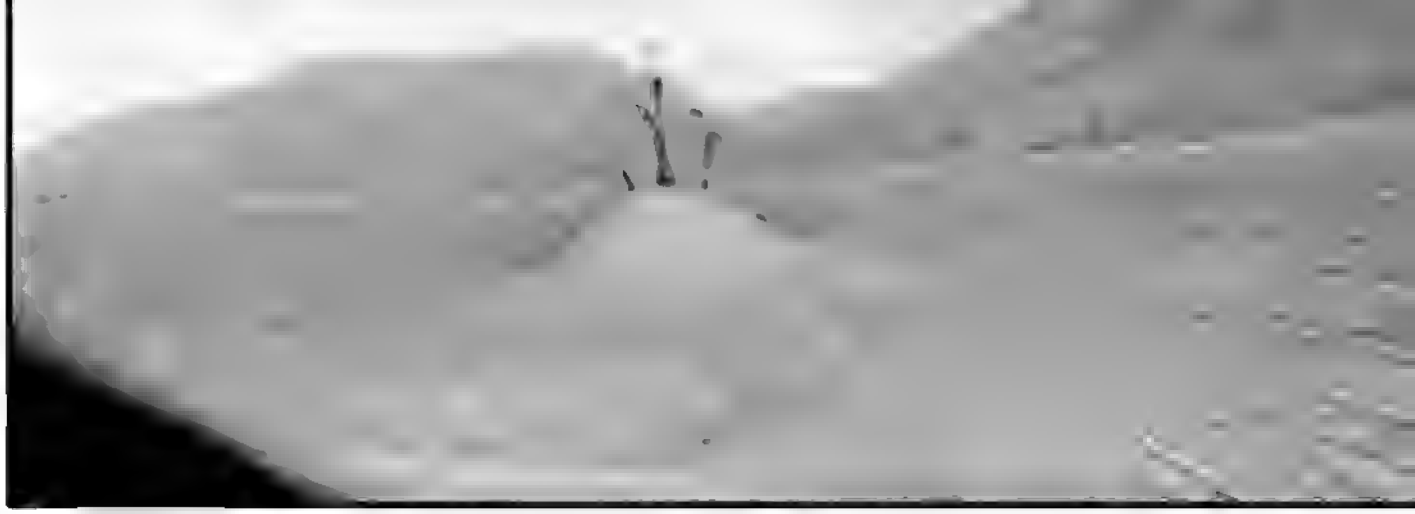
ONLY A NINJA OF GREAT SKILL...
COULD STRIKE DOWN A MAN LIKE GYOUBU...

I SMELL SALT
IT MUST'VE BEEN PART OF A SHIP
THOSE IGA SCOUNDRELS... THIS IS HOW THEY CHOSE TO REPLY TO YOUR LETTER GENNOSUKE SAMA





...ARE PROBABLY WATCHING US RIGHT NOW.
THOSE IGA BASTARDS...
I WILL AVENGE YOUR DEATH.
GYOUBU...
STEP



NENKI TRIED TO USE THE SEVEN DAYS OF DARKNESS POTION, BUT...
IT MUST NOT HAVE BEEN POWERFUL ENOUGH...
TO BLIND SENBOTSUKE

AND FOUR OF US AS WELL... BUT TWO OF OUR NINJA ARE BLIND
THERE ARE FOUR OF THEM LEFT?
WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
WELL, TENZEN-DONO...
EVEN I...
...DON'T FULLY UNDERSTAND HIS NINJA TECHNIQUE.
OF COURSE... ONE OF THE KOUGA NINJA IS BLIND AS WELL.
HYOUMA MUROGA... ONE OF THE KOUGA CLAN'S MOST POWERFUL FIGHTERS...
EITHER WAY, TONIGHT WE SLAY HYOUMA MUROGA!
THEY'LL BE STAYING EITHER IN CHIRYUU OR OKAZAKI.
YES
THE HOODED MAN...
THE OTHER HOODED MAN IS PROBABLY SAEMON KISARAGI.

SO FOR THE TIME BEING, WE MUST NOT LET OBORO-SAMA KNOW THAT WE'VE SPOTTED GENNOSUKE
SHE'LL ONLY GET IN THE WAY
I WANT YOU TO STAY BY OBORO-SAMA'S SIDE THIS EVENING. TELL HER NOTHING
I UNDER STAND
KOSHIROU AND I WILL ATTACK THE KOUGA CLAN.
HEH
KOSHIROU SEEMS TO BE DOING MUCH BETTER
UH. UM.
I CAN'T HELP BUT WORRY...

N-NO
ABOUT KOSHIROU DONO
YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT ME, AKEGINU?
HUH?
WE DIDN'T COME ALL THIS WAY JUST TO SEE THE SIGHTS, AKEGINU.
THIS IS A LIFE OR DEATH BATTLE! KILL OR BE KILLED!
Y-YOU'RE RIGHT. I'M SORRY
HEH
WHEN PEOPLE TRAVEL TOGETHER, THE BOND BETWEEN MAN AND WOMAN
OFTEN GROWS STRONGER
DOESN'T IT, AKEGINU?

...HAVE SLAYED EVERY LAST KOUGA BASTARD...
ONCE WE...
PERHAPS WE CAN HAVE A LITTLE CEREMONY ...
...FOR YOU AND KOSHIROU.
TO BE CONTINUED IN BOOK 4

about the authors

FŪTARO YAMADA

Born in 1922 in Hyogo Prefecture, Fūtaro Yamada made his debut as a novelist while still a student at Tokyo Medical University. Yamada was known for his mystery novels such as *Ganchuu No Akuma*. Later, his Ninja Scrolls series became wildly popular. He penned a wide body of literature, including the period piece *Makaitensei*, as well as several collections of essays such as *Ato Senkai No Banmeshi* and *Ningen Rinjyuu Zukan.* He passed away on July 28, 2001.

MASAKI SEGAWA

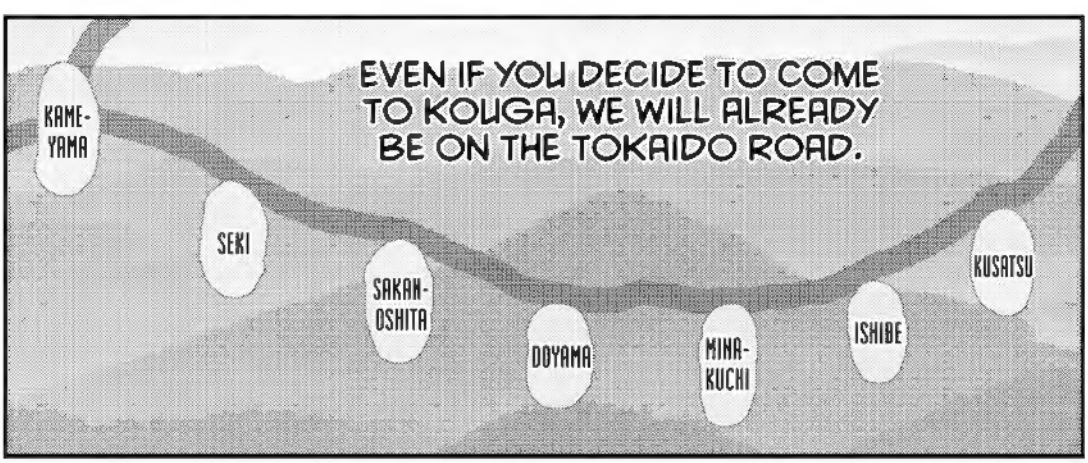
Masaki Segawa made his debut in 1997 with the series Senma Monogatari, which ran in the weekly comic *Morning*. In 1998, he began his long-running *Uppers* magazine series Onigiri Jyuuzou, which ended in the year 2000. This is his second long-running series, and his first adaptation. He loves cats and watermelon.
He currently resides in Funabashi.

Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more art than science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction in our translation of the work, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

THE TOKAIDO TRAIL, PAGE 17

The Tokaido Trail was a famous 300-mile coastal road linking Kyoto and Tokyo during the Tokugawa Era. The road was used by the shogun to maintain control over the country, but it soon became a major commercial route. The fifty-three stations along the Tokaido route were depicted in wood block prints by the famous Edo Era artist Hiroshige. Today several train lines make the journey from Kyoto to Tokyo along parts of the Tokaido Trail.



KASA, PAGE 169

"Kasa" literally means umbrella. In the old days, people wore woven umbrella hats to keep out the sun and rain. Gyoubu wears one on page 134.